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A
NARRATIVE
OF THE
LIFE and DISTRESSES
OF
SIMON MASON,
APOTHECARY.

CONTAINING

A Series of TRANSACTIONS and EVENTS,
both Interesting and Diverting.



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THE
DEDICATION.

TO the Good and Great, the
Impartial and Unprejudic'd;
this NARRATIVE is most humbly
submitted,

By their most Dutiful,

Obedient, and Distress'd

Humble Servant,

SIMON MASON.

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T H E

P R E F A C E.



I H A D in my first *Proposals*, annex'd this *Narrative* to my *practical Observations*, with an Intention to make them both *one Book*; but (at the Request of my ever esteem'd

Friend, the Revd. Mr. *William Guest*,) Dr. *Cornwall Falthwell* of *Stamford*, a very learned ingenious Physician, and humane Gentleman, read them over, whose Candour and good Nature, led him to speak in commendation of my Undertaking, and at the same Time He, as also did many more neighbouring Gentlemen, advise me to print them separately, for these two Reasons; first, they were of opinion, that when this Account of a distress'd unhappy Life, should appear in the World, it would fall into some Hands, that might shew me such Compassion as would the better enable me to publish my *medicinal* Undertaking, and be a Means to obtain me a greater Number of Sub-

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scribers:

scribers: The second reason was, that these Works together would be too voluminous and expensive for so small a *Subscription*: Therefore I hope those few, who have subscrib'd to my first *Proposals*, will upon these Considerations, pardon my making *two Books* of them. This Account of the material Occurrences of my Life, I would have gladly been excus'd from publishing, but found it unavoidable, since an Enquiry was lately made by a Gentleman, *why a Man of approv'd Knowledge in his Profession, with upwards of thirty Years Practice, should be in adverse Circumstances?* 'Tis not material to tell the Reader who the Gentleman is, that made this Enquiry, and I must beg to be excus'd, as it may give offence. In vindication of myself from the many Aspersions, and false Accusations I labour under; considering the Distresses I am reduc'd to, which arise chiefly from Cruelty and Oppression; I should be remiss in regard to myself, and conduct, as well as the desire every Man ought to have to Truth and Justice, was I not to clear up some suspicious Occurrences in answer to this Enquiry; and I hope the Facts, which I have most exactly represented, are such, as will prove quite satisfactory to those, who have censur'd my Conduct, and blam'd me without a just Cause.

My chief Reason for publishing this *Narrative* is, that I may convince the World that if my Knowledge in my Profession is deficient, my Industry

dustry and Application have not been wanting; and that I have done all that I could possibly do, in my Circumstances, to maintain myself and Family, in that small sphere of Life I am plac'd in, with the greatest Assiduity; and if I have not some Qualifications requisite to make a Man prosperous in this World, yet have I endeavour'd to be as useful as it was in my Power.

This Work doth consist of all the material Occurrences of my Life, from my Birth to this Day; and I shall impartially state Facts, as they really are, and if I err, by charging any Man wrongfully, or omit relating such Wrongs as I myself have been guilty of, when either of these I am accused of, I will obviate them to any one. For this Reason, I think, a Work of this Kind is better to be done during a Man's Life, than afterwards; when Facts may be examin'd into, and all Accusations, Doubts, and Events, (seemingly irreconcilable,) may be made clear and manifest.

Of all the Sins that are committed in this World, (if I may be allow'd such an Expression in the Eyes of the Sons of Men) there is none comes up to Poverty: *Si non maximum Crimen, maximum malum est Paupertas*, and this great Evil is not one great Sin, but he that is guilty of this, may be said to be guilty of all. This Evil does not only make a Man the greatest Sinner, but he must of course be the most contemptible, despicable, insignificant silly Mortal

upon Earth, as Juvenal expresseth it: *Nil habet infelix Paupertas durius in se; quam quod ridiculos Homines facit.* It is thought impossible to be honest, prudent, regular, sober, and skilful in any Profession, if poor; nay so extensive is this same hateful Malignity, that a poor Man must be a Rogue, a Fool, Irregular, a Drunkard, unskilful in his Profession, and consequently liable to all Manner of Censure and Reproach; unworthy Pity, undeserving Encouragement, expos'd to Insolence, doom'd to Misery and Distress, to dragg on an unhappy Life, till Death removes him beyond the Malice of human Persecution. On the contrary, a Man endow'd with this world's Goods, Riches and Possessions, according to the present prevailing Notion, is likewise endow'd with Honesty, Wisdom, Sobriety, Skill in his Profession, and all Manner of Virtues, entirely without Faults, or if he has any, who can see them, or dare name them?

As Riches, instead of Charity, now a days, cover a Multitude of Sins, so Poverty obscures all commendable Qualifications and Endowments: and this is not all, for the wisest of the Sons of Men, says, *the Rich has many Friends, but the Poor is hated of his Neighbours.* There is an Odium that attends Poverty, but Riches gain Love, Esteem, and Adoration. Hard! Often too hard is the Fate of some Poor, who have been born of wealthy Parents, and tenderly brought
up

up, never inured to hard Work, or hard Living, and who by unavoidable Accidents are reduc'd to great Distress; such unfortunate Poor as these, are of all Men most miserable: For what Hardship can it be to the laborious, who from his Infancy was brought up to hard Labour, or to such who have always fared hard, and liv'd upon mean course Diet, to continue what is not only habitual, but natural to them? It can only be grievous to such, as I observ'd, who from an Affluence of Fortune, have their Minds, as well as Bodies better cultivated, and thereby are made more sensible of the Misery of their reduc'd Condition: This is not all that adds to the unhappiness of the already enough Unfortunate, they, by the most vulgar wicked Train of Plebeians, are reproach'd, insulted, despis'd, abused and pointed at, as the most hateful of all Sorts of Poor; they look upon such a Man with Envy and Contempt, instead of pitying him for being reduc'd to a low, distress'd Condition; they envy him, because his Birth, his Knowledge, with a more decent Behaviour, the effect of a more liberal Education, (whatever his Circumstances are) continue him still, something above them and their Cruelties.

'Tis painful to hear such unfortunate Poor ill spoken of, and ill treated. How bitter is this Reply from People in higher Life, (where he hopes for Regard and Encouragement) yes, the Man is allow'd a Man of Knowledge, but he is poor, they

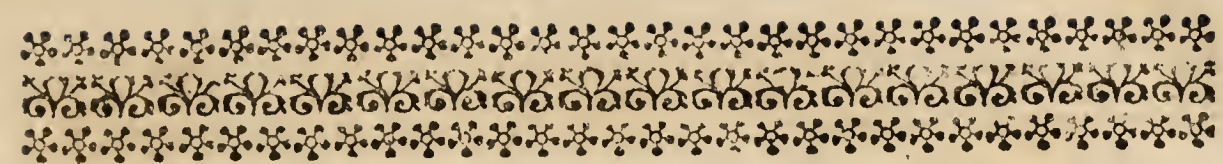
they need say no more, for this comprehends his being guilty of every Vice, and wanting in every thing commendable.

But since the same wise Man says, *a good Name is better to be desired than great Riches*, and as I, at this time of Life, stand a bad Chance for the latter, and the Preference he gives to the former doth excite in me an Abhorrence of being thought guilty of great Crimes and Imprudences, as such my present Distresses are principally attributed to; as I shall relate, and I hope clear up, to the Satisfaction of every impartial good Person; and as for those who doubt the Veracity of any Part of my Relation, they may confute it if they can, knowing where I Exist; (as I can scarce be said to Live;) for I am ready to satisfy every Doubt, and answer any Objection, and submit the Whole to the Candour of the Good, the Wise, and Unprejudic'd.

In order to remove Surmises, Doubts, Misrepresentations, Censure and Blame, and to make the Reasons plain and obvious; I shall most exactly relate all the material Occurrences and Transactions of my Life, from first to last, with the utmost Impartiality and Truth my Memory will admit of; and shall rather err by saying too little, than trespass by saying too much; and I shall forbear relating some Facts, as were they exasperated, would darken those who have by Injustice and Cruelty, greatly contributed to the many Difficulties and Hardships, I have
 so

so long struggled with; and should I advance any Falsity, in order to excuse myself, and blame others, I desire they would in justice to themselves, and the World, make any such misrepresentation Appear, and I will publickly acknowledge my Guilt, and ask Forgiveness; and I think Persons who write their Lives, and publish them in their life Time, are more likely to stick to the Rules of Truth and Justice, than those, who leave them for others to publish, when it is neither in their Power to vindicate what they have related, or contradict what some ill design'd malicious Persons may falsely say, in order to asperse and lessen the Veracity of such a Testimonial.

A N A R R A-



A
NARRATIVE
OF THE
LIFE and DISTRESSES
OF
SIMON MASON, *Apothecary.*



O U R Author, *Simon Mason* was Born at *Great Gransden* in *Huntingdonshire*, in the Year 1701 and is Eldest surviving Son of *Simon Mason Esq*; late of *Great Gransden* aforesaid, whose Ancestors have liv'd in the same Town possess'd of a good Estate, upwards of three Hundred Years, one of the most antient Families in that County, who originally descended from *Pickering Castle* in *Yorkshire*.

My Father being left a Minor, under the care of his Uncle *John Mason* then an Attorney at *St. Ives*, he after being Qualified at School for the *University*, was admitted proper Pensioner of *Clare Hall* in *Cambridge*, from whence he took Chambers in *Lincolns Inn*, and after being call'd to the *Bar* he return'd to his Seat at *Great Gransden*, and to his Death practis'd as *Bar-rister* at *Law*. He married *Elizabeth*, eldest Daughter of *Thomas Salmon* Cl. Rector of *Mep-*
B *sal*

sal in *Bedfordshire*, by whom he had seven Sons and six Daughters, I can't say what Account his Uncle gave of his Stewardship, while he was Guardian for my Father, though I believe it was a very bad one, as I have often heard my Father relate. However this good Uncle of my Father's was esteem'd an honest Man in great Circumstances, and having no Child, and my Father being his Heir at Law, had no small expectations from him, and in order to make him amends for his Guardianship, and farther to secure his Friendship when his good Uncle *John Mason* was made *General Receiver* for *Huntindonsire*, he became security to the *Government*; I can't say how many Years his Uncle continu'd *General Receiver*, but he thought proper to break several thousand Pounds in the *Government's* Debt in the latter End of *Queen Ann's* Reign; upon his Uncle's failing, Messengers were directly sent to take Possession of my Fathers Estate, &c, which they sold to make good his Uncle's Deficiencies, to the Amount of several thousand Pounds; there also was one Colonel *Farrer*, the other Security whom I believe suffer'd also after this fatal Miscarriage, his Uncle made a decent Retreat with a modest Revenue of about two-hundred Pounds per Annum into the *Fleet*, where he lived many Years very genteelly, and I and my Father attended him to the Burial-Ground in *Bunhill-Fields*, in the Year 1718, but had he been laid there twenty or thirty Years sooner, it would have been better for my Father and his Family.

This fatal Blow by an Extent from the *Government* to seize and sell so great a Part of my Father's Estate, began the Destruction of a Family, who had liv'd so many Years in Plentiful Fortunes and
good

good Esteem. Here began a Scene of Afflictions, which brought on other unhappy Law disputes that lasted many Years! and so reduced my Father, having a large Family to support, that he liv'd very little in the Country afterwards; as his chief Dependance was upon his Practice as Council, which obliged him to be mostly in *London*, where in the Year 1725 he Died of a *Pleurisy* at his Lodgings near the *Temple* in *Fleet-Street*, in the ⁵⁰th³⁰ thirty-sixth Year of his Age. He was before this an Hearty, Healthy Man, and might have liv'd to this Day had he been properly treated; a short Account of which I shall mention upon an Occasion that happen'd to me at *Cambridge*, (which, I shall amongst other Circumstances relate in its Place,) I went to *London* to my Father for Advice, whom I found out of Order, with the Symptoms of a *Pleurisy*, and the next Day, he growing worse, I ask'd him who was his Physician, he told me Dr. *Lewis*, who was his old Acquaintance and Co-temporary with him at *Clare-Hall*, I sent immediately for Dr. *Lewis*, who came and according to Custom, order'd hot Medicines, without bleeding, which he took; the Symptoms encreasing, he Blister'd him, and gave Oyl and Syrups in plenty! More Boluses, and Juleps! But as my Father had no Sweats, no Stool, no Abatement of the Symptoms; I was then but a young Practitioner, yet old enough to disapprove the Doctor's Practice, my Father in a high Fever with an acute Pain in his Side, a difficulty in Breathing, with a set red Colour in his Face. I address'd my Father in this Manner; Sir, to stand by and see a Father lost for want of proper Treatment, is what I can't tacitly submit to, without being guilty of the greatest Breach of Duty, which would give me a lasting Concern, was I not, before it is too late I hope, to

apprise you of your Danger; your Case requires immediate large bleeding, which has been omitted too long, and something to procure you a Stool or two, and instead of these hot Medicines, they ought to be cooling diluting Medicines; you may drink cool Tankard, and small Beer if you please, and I have too much reason to fear, unless you are directly treated after this Manner you'll not recover. I tell you my Thoughts as I ought to do, and if you'll give me leave I'll mention them to the Doctor; and if he don't consent to what I propose I shall break in upon Distinction, and take upon me to relieve you: Here I must observe that the little Knowledge I had so early acquir'd in Physick, was chiefly owing to my late valuable Friend Dr. *Wallis*, then Fellow of *Magdalen Colledge, Cambridge*, who took no small Pains to improve the imperfect Ideas, I had of the Practice of Physick; but to return, my Father thank'd me, and commended me for my Regard, but answer'd, *Simon* you are a young Man, your Notions may be just, and seem so to be, but should I die under them, that may give uneasiness to yourself and room for others to reflect, so I think it will be most advisable to pursue the Doctor's Directions, which we did, I told Mr. *Barecroft* his Apothecary my Sentiments, who told me, if I desir'd it, he wou'd take the Method I propos'd, which he believ'd to be right, but conformable to my Father's Desire forbore, and soon I was an Eye-witness of the Consequence of such Treatment, and my Father was inter'd in St. *Dunstan's Church Fleet-Street*, in the Year 1725.

The Misfortunes that happen'd to my Father were such as might have happen'd to any other Gentleman, he suffer'd by his Uncle, from whom he had
great

great Expectations. Had my Father neglected his Wife and numerous Family, and spent his Estate in Luxury and Debauchery, or had he either Gam'd, or Sported it away, he must not only have been reproach'd by the World, but blam'd and censur'd by his Wife and Children: But in justice to his Memory I must assert, he was a great Scholar, an eminent Council, a sober honest religious Man, who scorn'd in all Circumstances of his Life a mean Action, and abhorr'd a dishonest one, but was ever stedfast to his Trust, he was a loving Husband, and tender Father, the Regard and Compassion he had for the Distress'd, often engag'd him in Pauper-Causes, which he us'd to support at his own Expence, and at a Time he could not well afford it, but as it was from a Motive of doing Good, I hope he now receives his Reward in Heaven.

I should be remiss in my Duty, to the Memory of so good a Woman as my Mother liv'd and dy'd, should I in silence pass by her Remains now lying in *Great Gransden Church*; this good, pious, dutiful Wife, and tender Mother, with a slender Fortune, was reduc'd long to struggle with many Children, which she underwent with the greatest Resignation, and Chearfulness, and often would confess her Troubles were chiefly for her Children who had enter'd upon Difficulties betimes, and none so soon, and so great as myself which I have set forth: But should I attempt to speak the just Praises of my deceas'd Mother, I might perhaps be thought to say too much, I shall therefore only add to the Duty of a good Wife and Mother; that she was friendly and sincere, Charitable and strictly a religious good Christian, she bore all Afflictions with chearfulness, and a long Illness with the utmost Patience and Resignation, and
agreea-

agreeable to her Prayers, she was remov'd from this World to a Better, the 8th of September 1742.

My Grand-Father had three Wives, with whom he had good Fortunes, he built a large handsome House, out Houses, with Gardens, Groves, Fish-Ponds, long Rows of Trees leading up to a pleasant large Wood, a very agreeable Place in a good Situation, about fifty measur'd Miles from *London*, in the Center of several market Towns. I can't say exactly what my Grand-Father dy'd worth, but to the best of my Knowledge 'twas near twenty-thousand Pounds, he left three Daughters whose Fortunes were three-thousand Pounds each, which makes me believe after those Fortunes and other Matters claim'd my Father's Estate (exclusive of Practice) was about six-hundred Pounds per Annum.

I have briefly given the Reader an Account of the Misfortunes of my Father, and the cause of the first Reduction of his Family, I shall only observe that all possible Care was taken to instruct, and soberly to bring up a numerous Family, and besides myself, there are now living three Brothers and four Sisters who all share my good Wishes and Affection.

I continued with my Mother and went to School at *Great-Gransden*, till I was ten Years, when a good Uncle my God-Father, then a Physician at *Bishop-Startford* in *Hertfordshire*, sent for me to that School, where I continued some Years under the Instruction of the learned Dr. *Tooke*, where I had an Opportunity of being known by several young Gentlemen, who many of them are now Gentlemen of great Worth and Dignity; (who upon reading this Narrative, I hope will be mov'd to compassionate a distress'd School-Fellow;) I study'd at *Bishop-Start-*

Startford School, till my Uncle ask'd me if I wou'd go to the *University* of *Cambridge* and be bred a Physician, or go to *London* and be bred an Apothecary; but I like other silly Boys, willing to get from School, refus'd going to *Cambridge*, which to this Day I earnestly lament, but imprudently chose to go Apprentice to an Apothecary in *London*, and I was soon sent to one Mr. *Cornelius* a worthy honest Man, and an understanding Apothecary, who then liv'd in *Fenchurch-Street* in the City of *London*, and whose Brother lately kept the *Rose-tavern* without *Temple-Bar*.

In the Year 1715, I was (at Apothecary's Hall) bound Apprentice to Mr. *Ralph Cornelius*, he was a very good Master to me, and allowing for some little Inadvertencies of Youth, without Ostentation I was as good an Apprentice, I first endeavour'd to obtain a Knowledge of Simples and their Virtues, next the Art of Composition and making Medicines, and to acquire a compleat Knowledge of Quantity and Quality. And as I advanc'd farther in my Apprentiship I attended the Sick and made the most strict Enquiry into the Nature of Distempers I was then capable of, with the Symptoms that attended and by what Method treated, observing the Effect of Medicines and the Power and Efforts of Nature; and at my leisure Hours read such Books as were recommended to me, and as often as I had opportunity I went to *St. Thomas's Hospital*: Thus I went on with my Master as well as could be wish'd for till the Year 1719. Having serv'd better than half my Apprentiship, my Master gave me leave to go into the Country to see my Relations for a Month, as it is customary for Apprentices so to do: This happen'd in that ever memorable *South-Sea Year*,
when

when a Vein of Madneſs ſeem'd to run through the Kingdom; and I amongſt the reſt was willing to get a little Money, which I thought wou'd be very ſuitable at that Time, to cut a Figure with in the Country. South-Sea Stock was then at one-hundred per Cent. and it was very difficult to get Subſcriptions. *Sir John Fellows* and *Charles Foy, Eſq;* were Governors, both whoſe Families were Patients to my Maſter; a Gentleman deſirous of getting a Subſcription, as he knew I ſtood well in the Favour of theſe Governors, offer'd me ~~one-hundred~~¹⁰⁰⁰ Guineas, to procure him a Subſcription of five-hundred Pounds, for which I apply'd to Mr. *Foy*, who readily granted it me, and I was paid ~~one-hundred~~¹⁰⁰⁰ Guineas as a Premium for procuring him a Subſcription of five-hundred Pounds: This I thought was a fine Sum to equip a young Fellow to cut a Flaſh with, in the Country, though in the firſt Place I pay'd all that had any demands upon me, and ſent my Mother a Preſent, telling her I ſhould ſoon pay her a Viſit; I went and bought me a fine Hunter in *Smith-Field*, and dreſt me like a young 'Squire, and ſet off for a Months Pleaſure, which was ſo agreeable after four Years cloſe Confinement that made me have a great Deſire to ſtay a little longer; I accordingly took a ride to *London* to wait on my Maſter, to beg the Indulgence of another Month, and told him there was a young Fellow of my Acquaintance juſt out of his Time, who would, with his leave, ſupply my Place during my ſtay in the Country, for which I would ſatisfy him: My Maſter was ſo Indulgent to give me leave to ſtay another Month, but I meeting with ſuch good uſage and delightful ſport at hunting, (which I naturally too much lov'd,) ſtay'd in the Country ſix Months inſtead of two, and then
return'd

return'd to my Duty, paid my Journeyman, and afterwards stuck close to Business.

After my return Mrs. *Cornelius*, as an Instance of her good Wishes for my Welfare, would have brought a Match about, betwixt me and Miss *Westron*, an only Daughter of a wealthy Haberdasher of small Wares next Door but one to us. This young Gentlewoman as never being from Home was wanting in those Accomplishments her Fortune requir'd, and her Charms were chiefly in her Father's long Baggs, who was computed to be a twenty-thousand Pound Man. My good Mistress in order to my carrying on an Amour got a Milk-woman into the Secret, where I was to meet Miss to drink Sillabub; and I believe had I follow'd the Advice my Mistress gave me by a close Pursuit of my Addressee I should have succeeded; but the principal Reason of my Indifference was, a Pretty young Lass Apprentice to my Namesake a Milliner at the *Queen's Head* in *Lombard-Street*, with whom I was much Captivated, and she really was a well bred, sober, genteel young Woman, whose Accomplishments and Person, were equally engaging: She was the Daughter of a reputable Attorney in the City, who had left a Widow, one Son and three Daughters, the Widow was much of a Gentlewoman, whom I visited several times, and was genteelly treated; I kept Company some time with her Daughter, but never brought matters to a Promise, we were not so much in a hurry, being both Apprentices, and her Mother had too much Discretion to forward our Destruction, and she knew too that I should as well as her Daughter forfeit not only our Indentures, but our Freedom of the City. I consulted my Master, who advised me not to marry, and told me the ill Con-

sequences that wou'd attend it, not that he had any dislike to Miss *Nanny Stacey*, but I was to consider that it was absolutely Necessary to have a Fortune of one Side; indeed says he, was you to marry Miss *Westron*, neither the Remainder of your Apprentiship, or Freedom would be of any Consideration; such a Fortune would make you Independant of Business, &c. And upon his Advice I dropt my Amour, and this young agreeable Gentlewoman soon met with a good Husband of a handsome Fortune, who kept his Coach, which I hope she rides in to this Day.

By this Time I had serv'd six Years, and was turn'd of one and twenty, and not to be vain was allow'd to have made a good Progress in the Art of my Profession; had a great deal of Favour shewn me at Home and Abroad, respected by all our Patients; and my Master having a junior Apprentice, and a Labourer, the Chief of my Business was to visit the Patients, and where no Physician was employ'd, I (by the Request of my Master) directed most of the Medicines our Patients took; my Master shew'd me the greater Regard, as he was acquainted with my Father, and knew the great Misfortunes that had lately befall his Family. Besides eating at his Table and having an handsome Room to myself, when other Apprentices lay under the Compter; he also gave me a Priviledge he never did to any Apprentice before, for my diligence and care of his Business; he told me as I was acquainted with many young Gentlemen, if any of them should have occasion for my Assistance in the venereal Way, I might Practice, and make what Advantage I could, only keeping an Account of what Medicines I gave, and paying him prime Cost. This Indulgence I thankfully accepted, and I shall not enlarge should I say, I made

near

near fifty Pounds a Year of it; this kept me handsomely in Cloths and pocket Money. Amongst my Patients, one in particular was a *Master Sadler*, in the Neighbourhood, whom I had a Demand on for five Guineas, and he had the honesty to refuse paying me, thinking I acted in a clandestine Manner unknown to my Master, and thought I neither could or dar'd demand any Pay; I told my Master the Affair, he bid me go to an Officer of the *Poultry-Compter*, and tell him to arrest such a Man in his Name; (this was before Persons were oblig'd to swear to their Debts before they cou'd sue for them,) accordingly I did, and the Officer had got my Patient in the Evening at the *Mitre-tavern* in *Fenchurch-Street*; my Master being sent for, the Sadler ask'd how he came to arrest him for a Debt he never contracted, neither did he owe him any Thing, upon that or any other Account, my Master reply'd, if he did not think proper to apply to him, he had to his Man, which was the same Thing, and he should insist upon being pay'd; here my Patient that intended to have bit me, was oblig'd to pay the five Guineas with Charges and an handsome Treat to keep the affair a Secret, and my Master gave me the Money that very Night.

Such favours as these I had shewn me, and I us'd my best endeavours to make a suitable Return by a constant assiduity in his Business, which I can safely aver I did as well in his Absence as when he was at Home. Indeed the last Year of my Time after the Business of the Day was over, I us'd in an Evening to go to the *Coffee-House* where I met with my Acquaintance, and afterwards adjourn'd to the *Castle-tavern* in *Lombard-Street*, to spend an Hour or two, but never went out 'till Business was taken

care of, and then, never without leaving word where I went to, as I was liable to be wanted at any Time; but one Night happening to stay too late, my Master sat up, in order to rebuke me, and when I came home, he ask'd why I stay'd so long and kept the Family up; I having had a Glass too much, told him I left word where I was, and if I had been wanted I should have come sooner, had I been sent for; this Answer put my Master in a Passion and so exasperated him that he struck me, I told him I thought I was too big to be beat, and as he never attempted it before, I should not submit to it now, which provok'd him to repeat his Blows: I turn'd by his Cane, and caught him by the Collar and kick'd up his Heels, but never struck him, my Mistress and the Servants came and parted us, and I was very much concern'd at this unlucky Fray.

The next Morning when he came into the Shop, he told me I must go before the *Chamberlain* for beating him, as he said; Sir, give me leave to speak with you first, as we never before quarrell'd, and I hope never shall again, and you know very well Sir, that I have hitherto behav'd as I ought to you, and I am also sensible of your Favours and Indulgence, therefore I think it will be most advisable to take no farther Notice but to drop it? No he reply'd, he'd make an example of me; nay Sir, if that's the Case you must, but I wou'd have you consider one Thing; consider what Sir, why that you are pretty much in the Country, and then the Business is intirely left to my care, which you never found neglected in your Absence, nor shall it yet, but if you do expose me by going before the *Chamberlain*, I nevertheless will take all the Care I can of your Patients, but I never will give one penny-worth of
Phyick

Phyſick more than I think they abſolutely ſtand in need of; this gave a turn to his Paſſion, he dropt the Affair, and we continu'd in good friendſhip for ſome time.

Another unlucky Circumſtance ſoon after happen'd which parted me from my Maſter after I had ſerv'd almoſt ſeven Years.

My Maſter had a Patient a *Dyer* in *Southwark*, whoſe Family were very intimate with my Maſter and his; this ſame *Dyer* had a Daughter, I had fixed my Affections on, after my other two love Intrigues; as to the others, one of them had Money, and no other Charms, the laſt had all Charms but no Money, but this had both; I had been acquainted with her by coming to viſit Mr. *Cornelius's* Family five or ſix Years, and ſhe was a ſweet temper'd agreeable Girl about ſixteen and likely to make a fine Woman. When her Parents diſcover'd my Inclinations to their Daughter, I had what encouragement I could deſire, all the Objection was, their Daughter was too young, but two or three Years hence, if we ſhould like each other they ſhould be very agreeable to it, but neither Miſs nor myſelf were willing to truſt the uncertain event of ſo long a Time, and we had at laſt brought the Parents to conſent.

My Maſter and Miſtreſs *Cornelius* both approv'd of this Affair very well, till they ſaw all Parties in good Earneſt, when they began to think ſuch a Match would interfere with their Intereſt, as they were not only liable to loſe Mr. *Cole's* Buſineſs, but ſeveral more Families related to them, ſhould I marry Miſs *Cole* and ſettle in Town. Theſe conſiderations of my Maſter's were very juſt, and when intereſt is at ſtake, what friendſhip will over balance it? and

as 'twas my Master's interest to break off this Engagement, it quite broke off all friendship betwixt us, and we parted.

There was an Apothecary in the same Street, whose Name was *Clarke*, to whom I was well known, I went directly and contracted to serve him as a Journeyman, before I was legally discharg'd from Mr. *Cornelius*. This was a wrong Step in me, and Mr *Clarke* should have known better, and have first talk'd with my Master *Cornelius* before he had contracted with me, and in all probability matters wou'd have been accommodated, and I had return'd and stay'd my time with Mr. *Cornelius* as I ought, 'tis certainly very imprudent and unfair, for one Man to encourage another Man's Apprentice; however, Mr. *Clarke* and I contracted, and I liv'd with him till after playing with the Bait, I at last was catch'd in earnest.

Mr. *Clarke* was an ingenious Man and had a good Deal of Business, but he lov'd his Glass, and was not a little Negligent, and wanted some Person that was capable and diligent: He had a very pretty, sober Youth Apprentice, whose genius and early Inclinations to diligence, join'd to a Capacity which promis'd his becoming what he now really is, a very ingenious Man, and an eminent Apothecary, whose Circumstances by a prudent Oeconomy are equal to his Accomplishments, whose Name is *Evans*, and lives now in *Doctors-Commons*: As I before said, Mr. *Clarke* wanted some Person capable of attending his Business, which I believe I did to his Satisfaction and his Patients, during the Time I liv'd with him. Amongst other Patients I was sent for to see one Mr. *Bently's Son*, who was then at Mr. *Pemberton's*, at the Sign of the *Coach and Horses* in *Northumberland*.

berland-Ally in *Fenchurch-Street*; this Mr. *Pemberton* had (some few Years before) married the Wife of *Robert Hull* who kept the same House and livery Stables thereunto belonging, and left a Widow with one Son and four Daughters, the Eldest was married, the Son and other three were at home, pretty, modest, sober young Women; and one in particular greatly took my Fancy, and by my repeated visits to my Patients, I contracted such a liking to her, that I ask'd her Father-in-law if he would bestow his Daughter upon me, I found encouragement enough from all Parties, and as my Master *Clarke* had been making overtures of partnership to me, in case I would advance three-hundred Pounds, I told the Father and Mother, I lik'd their Daughter so well, if they would give me three-hundred Pounds, (for which Sum Mr. *Clarke* wou'd take me into Partnership,) I would gladly marry their Daughter; I receiv'd no punctual Answer, but they gave me reasons to expect great matters, by Money and Board, &c. Mr. *Clarke* was constantly every Evening at the *Mitre-tavern* in *Dukes-Place* near *Aldgate*, and about eight or nine, if I was not with him before, he would send for me, where we commonly supp'd and drank a Glas together: I had told him before that I had seen a young Woman at such an House, and ask'd him after their Circumstances, and that I had some conversation with her Father and Mother, and told him what had pass'd betwixt us, and that they seem'd to like my proposals, but could not get them to any certainty as yet. Mr. *Clarke* assur'd me they were People of good Worth, and that I might depend upon their giving me three-hundred Pounds to come into partnership; but says he, it will chiefly depend upon what Character I shall

shall give you, which must be to your Advantage, and accordingly the next Day they did enquire after me, and at Night as usual I went to him at the *Mitre*, when he acquainted me what he had said to Mr. *Pemberton*, and that he was quite satisfied with it, and I need not fear but he would advance the Money requir'd and I will directly take you in Partners. I told him again I had been there and talk'd farther upon the Subject and found no difficulty in carrying my Point, could I be secure of the Money. God knows what *Clarke's* intention was, when he told me, you may depend upon the Money and rely on my Promise, so you have nothing to do but to get married. Though Mr. *Clarke* had seemingly great Business, yet a good deal of it was amongst the poorer Sort of *Jews*, who took advantage of his Indolence, and seldom paid him any Thing, and those who could, he neglected giving Bills to, and by one mismanagement or another he was pretty much put to it, which makes me think now, could he have got money of me or any other Person 'twas no matter of concern of his, how he got it, or what they suffer'd: And I, an unthinking young Fellow very much inamour'd and fond of being Master, what with old *Pemberton's* Promises and *Clarke's* Assurances, in six Weeks, unknown to any Relation contracted Matrimony; and here began an incessant Scene of Misery from October the 4th 1722, to October 1754.

In a few Days I was too much convinc'd what must be the unhappy Consequence of so rash and irretrievable an Action: God knows I had only five Pounds I borrow'd of a Distillers Man to purchase a Licence and to pay for the Celebration of these happy Nuptials, and after a wedding Dinner at the *Swan*
at

at *Chelsea*, my Stock was greatly exhausted, and instead of three-hundred Pounds not one Farthing, a Dinner or two I was favour'd with, when I soon discover'd a coolness. My new Mother first began with her dislike to my tye-Wigg and Ruffles; she thought they were too grand for her Son, and indeed, I as soon thought they did look too grand for my new Parents; I told good Madam *Pemberton*, Ruffles were what I ever wore, and most of our Profession did tye-Wiggs, as for me, I wore them most Part of my Apprenticeship; but what I understood by this pious old Lady, she and her consort were hatching a dislike in order to excuse themselves from their Promises, and soon my good Father-in-Law told me, he heard I did not stay my Time quite out with Mr. *Cornelius*, I told him that I thought Mr. *Clarke* had given him an Account of that, as I stay'd the Remainder with him: Another time he told me he heard I ow'd a great deal of Money; which I told him was absolutely false, and desired he wou'd produce the Persons I ow'd it to, or the Person who told him I did owe Money, for I do solemnly declare, to the best of my Memory, besides the five Pounds borrow'd to be marry'd with, I did not owe ten more in all the World, which was but a trifle to a Man who had marry'd a Fortune, and was directly going into Business: Another thing more false than the other two, was, he told me that I had a bastard Child, which was kept at four Shillings per Week, which, as God knows the Secrets of all Men, is as false, as God is true: I never arriv'd at that honour: And lastly, he and the good old Woman both

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pretended,

pretended, I marry'd against their consent and unknown to them. Very righteous indeed! My valuable Friend *Clarke* went with me to *Doctors-Commons* for a Licence to compleat my Ruin; but upon the *Proctor's* being inform'd she had a Father and Mother living and in Town, they would not grant us a Licence, unless one or both of them came, and for fear one was not sufficient, they both came to *Doctors-Commons* to attest their consent and approbation, and then I had the Materials of Destruction deliver'd to me, and the next Morning the good old People accompanied us to a Church adjoining to little *More-Gate*, where the old Gentleman bestowed his Daughter upon me, by giving her away, and my Mother-in-Law stood by; after the Ceremony was over, we all adjourn'd to a Tavern and Breakfasted, and at Noon I was favour'd with my new Father and Mother's company to dine with us at the *Swan* at *Chelsea*, tho' they, nor any one else offer'd to pay one Penny; and when I return'd to a Lodging the old Woman had procur'd for us in *Goodmansfields*, I had not so much as one Shilling to give the Drums; now whether or no I stole my Wife, I leave to Judgment.

In about a Week or ten Days time, having no Money, no Friendship, out of Business, and the thoughts of partnership quite laid a-side, I was oblig'd to take my leave of my young Spouse, committing her to the Care of her Father and Mother; I then made a visit to mine. The short Time of Courtship, at most six Weeks, and only a Week or ten Days matrimony, had made no great impressions upon the Mind of my young Wife; neither were the matrimonial Engagements
equal

equal to the Admonitions of so good a Mother, that parting with a Husband was a Matter of Indifferency.

In October 1722, I went to *Gransden* to visit my Parents, who were greatly surpris'd to see me, and more so as I walk'd it; I told my Mother the whole Affair, who was greatly astonish'd and concern'd, I told her I hop'd she wou'd pardon me, for 'twas in obedience to her Commands, who often assur'd me, if I had ever any wicked commerce with the Girls, I should certainly go to the Devil; and I have often spoke of it, not only to my Mother, but to many more, that I marry'd in order to escape going to the Devil, but have had a Life little inferior to it.

My Mother being one of the best temper'd compassionate Women in the World, wrote a Letter to her new Sister *Pemberton*, to invite her Daughter also to *Gransden*, who came, and we both stay'd there near a Twelvemonth, where my Wife met with quite different treatment than what I ever had from any of her Relations: My fondness and my Relations kindness, were made but a bad use of, for my Wife thought all adoration was due to her amiable Person, which exceeded both Fortune, Education and Family; and soon discover'd a Spirit, which by indulgence and fondness, was greatly improv'd.

By this time I had learnt (but not from my Wife) that her Mother (before she marry'd *Roger Pemberton*,) made a Will, and gave each of her Children a Fortune of forty Pounds to be paid upon the Day of Marriage, or at the Age of one and twenty; which I soon inform'd Mr. *Pemberton* of, and that I expected my Wife's Fortune, which he

knew he could not evade, whatever he could his Promise; and this demand brought Master *Pemberton* to *Gransden*, and he told me I should have the Money, but hop'd I would put myself into Business with it, and after a Day or two's stay at *Gransden*, we went to visit my Brother, an Attorney at *Newport-Pagnell*, to consult of a proper Place to fix in, which was *Stoney-Stratford*; we did not then go to *Stoney-Stratford*, but Master *Pemberton* return'd to *London*, leaving me and my Wife at my Brother's with two Guineas in Part of Payment.

Pemberton upon his return to *London*, went to my late Master Mr. *Cornelius*, who, as well as *Clarke*, gave me a good Character, and told him I understood my Business exceeding well, but he said he fear'd I had married too soon, unless I had married better: However Master *Pemberton*, desir'd he wou'd send me some Medicines, such as he thought I should want, and as many as he could afford for ten or twelve Pounds, which he accordingly did, and the old Gentleman soon made another visit into the Country, and we took a House at *Stony-Stratford*; and there I a young Fellow, and a perfect Stranger, set of with ten or twelve Pounds Stock, without one Shilling in my Pocket; I had employ'd one *John Forfitt*, who made me a Compter, some Shelves, Drawers, &c, and painting them likewise, for which he charg'd me nine Pounds some odd Shillings.

Notwithstanding my slender setting off, I got some Business, and I shou'd have had a retail Trade, but I had no Druggs to sell; I went to *London* to receive the Remainder of my Wifes Fortune, to pay *Forfitt* and to buy some Druggs; when

I went to my Father-in-law, he seem'd to be very civil, having a Point to carry, accordingly in the Evening, he sent for Mr. *Burkin*, a School-Master in the Neighbourhood, and after my assenting to all *Pemberton's* demands and expences in the Country, which he charg'd to me, and the five Pounds I borrow'd to be married with, and Mr. *Cornelius's* twelve Pounds, and two Guineas left me at *Newport-Pagnell*, I had not above five Pounds to receive; and after I had sign'd the Acquittance, he would neither give nor lend me one Farthing. This was a small Sum to buy Druggs with, and to return home, and to live upon till I could make some return by Business.

The next Day, I meeting one Mr. *Apthorp*, an *Apothecary* of *Potton* in *Bedfordshire*, told him what delemma I had plung'd myself into: This Mr. *Apthorp*, was my Uncle; he married my Fathers Sister, with whom he had three-thousand Pounds; another maiden Sister who boarded with him, was my God-mother, and she at her Death left her Fortune of three-thousand Pounds, to me, my Brothers and Sisters, and I being her God-son, she left me fifty Pounds to put me out Apprentice with, and five-hundred Pounds to set me up, if I was put to business, if not, the same Sum to be paid when I came of Age, if educated at the University: But this Mr. *Apthorp* thought it wou'd be a pretty Addition to his Wifes Fortune, and the Will he pretended was lost, whereby his Wife being Heir at Law, he secur'd the deceas'd Sister's Fortune for his own proper Use; and here I was defrauded of five-hundred and fifty Pounds: But to return; this good Uncle of mine told me he could recommend me
to

to a Druggift, who should give me what Credit I requir'd, and appointed my meeting him that Evening, at Mr. *Wackett's*, a Druggift on *Snow-Hill*, I met him there, and we, with Mr. *Wackett* went to the *Fountain-tavern* against *St. Sepulchers Church*, where we spent the Evening together, and I gave Mr. *Wackett* an Order for about twelve Pounds worth of Druggs, which he sent to *Stoney-Stratford*, which Place I set out for the next Morning. Upon my return home, being very glad I had got a little Money, and a supply of Druggs, I was in hopes, with frugality and diligence they would support us till better times; but as I was lately mentioning some Carpenters Work, and painting being done by *John Forfitt*, and having some talk with him about a Board being put up over my Door, with my Name, Profession, from London, &c. He, whilst I was gone to *London* made a fine Board, far exceeding my Directions, and fix'd it up over my Door, and cunningly, with this additional Charge, he made his demands up ten Pounds, for which Sum, he had sent for a Writ, while I was gone to get the Money to pay him, and arrested me, the very Day I return'd from *London*; to this Arrest I gave bail, and directly went to *London* to acquaint my Father-in-law about it, and also to let Mr. *Wackett* know, least he should hear of it more to my disadvantage and arrest me too; but I could obtain no relief from Master *Pemberton*.

I went then to acquaint Mr. *Wackett* with this unkind Treatment, who thought I was hardly us'd, and as I had acted so fairly with him, he would do me all the Service in his Power, and in the Evening we met at the *Fountain-tavern*,
and

and he brought his Father with him, who was a wealthy *Farrier* in *Coleman-Street*. After some discourse, I mention'd whose Daughter I had married, and that I could get no relief from that Quarter, Mr. *Wackett* of *Coleman-Street*, told me, he was well acquainted with Mr. *Pemberton*, and knew him when he was Coachman to Mr. *Tryon*, a Merchant in *Lime-Street*, and was pleas'd to think it was in his Power to be of use to me with *Pemberton*, and promis'd that the next Morning he would apply to him, and desir'd that I with his Son the Druggist would come the next Evening to sup with him, and hear the Event of his Application: The next Night, according to appointment I went to supper at old Mr. *Wackett's*, and as soon as I sat down, instead of a Supper, he introduc'd two Bailiffs, which took me directly to a spunging House, in *Grocers-Alley, Cheapside*, where I was kept close confin'd, till I sent to *Stoney-Stratford* for the Druggs, which were return'd by the Waggon, they never being so much as unpack'd, and I paid both carriage to and from *Stoney-Stratford*, and a great Expence at the spunging House before I was discharg'd.

'Tis too common and too cruel, for Persons whose Pride won't suffer them to own that they are not able to do what they engage and ought to do; but in order to evade justice, and excuse their cruelties, load Persons with such Odiums they deserve not, but often quite the reverse, which frequently prevents others doing even the common Offices of Humanity; and thus was I treated betwixt the *Farrier* and *Coachman*, which entirely demolish'd me at *Stoney-Stratford*; I ordered the

Remains

Remains of my Shop, to be sold to pay *Forfitt* his cruel unjust Demand and Expences; and my Wife return'd to *London*, and I went to make a second Visit at *Gransden*.

My Father having an Intimacy with his Brother Council, the Recorder of *Cambridge*, gave me a Letter of Credentials to him, who recommended me to Mr. *Casborn* an *Apothecary* at *Cambridge*, with whom I covenanted, as a Journeyman, in which capacity the consequences will prove my Behaviour. The first unlucky Accident to interrupt my quiet was, a Wigg I ow'd a Barber in Town for, it being but a small Demand; this Barber transfer'd his Debt to an Attorney, who arrested me without any Notice, and sent me to *Cambridge Castle*; (it seems Attorneys have an Indulgence to hold Clients to bail for small Sums,) I did not give bail to this arrest, as I could not imagine who the Writ came from, for I could swear I did not owe ten Pounds to any Man; unless my Wife's Relations had trump'd up a Demand for my Wife's lying-in, who now had brought forth her first born, my Son and Heir.

As soon as I discover'd, who had sent me to Goal, I sent to my Father and gave him an Account of the Cause of my Confinement; he directly wrote to Mr. *Serjant Not*, who quickly made the Lawyer glad to release me, and the Tonfor to make me a Present of the Wigg, and pay all Charges. Being sent to Goal did me some discredit, but was soon remov'd when the true Cause was known, and I return'd to Mr. *Casborn*, whose Business I attended with the utmost Diligence and Fidelity to the great Satisfaction of his Patients, as well as himself.

Mr.

Mr. *Casborn* had, besides good Business, a very handsome Estate that excluded him from so strict an application as those who have business only to depend on. He was an understanding facetious Man, lov'd his Glass, and kept a good deal of Company that engag'd him much from home, I have known him four or five Days together at the *Tunns-tavern* without once coming home. The Reception I met with from his Patients, particularly the Gentlemen of the *University*, gave him a greater opportunity to indulge. One After-noon he sent for me to the *Tunns*, and after a Glass or two, told me, he had something to offer, which he believ'd would be both agreeable to my Inclinations and Interest; I answer'd, I should be glad to embrace any offer consistent with his Pleasure, and my own Interest: He then said, you are a young Fellow and well Qualified, and your behaviour has gain'd you a general good opinion in the *University*, so that I am seldom sent for to visit any Gentleman that is sick, but they all send for you, which I am well pleas'd at, as I had rather be excus'd and take my Glass; you know my Business, and if you like it, I will give it over, and put you into it, I thank'd him and said I wou'd gladly accept his kind offer, he said you know I have a very good Estate, (I believe it was worth better than two-hundred Pounds per Annum;) which will maintain me, and my two youngest Daughters, and as for Nanny (who was an agreeable young Gentlewoman, and at that time the Toast of the *University*) I will (with my Shop, Business, Household-Goods and an handsome Sum in your Pocket,) make you a Present of; (no one at *Cambridge* knew I was then married)

I thank'd him very kindly and told him, it was a favour I no ways merited, 'twas an offer far exceeding what I could expect, but I would most gladly accept it, was it in my Power; (and here I curs'd my fate.) In your Power says he; what are you engag'd then? Yes too far, to be so happy as you and your Daughter wou'd make me, for really Sir to undeceive you I am married; married says he! then you are ruin'd. I am so or else I shou'd not have been your humble Servant.

This offer made too late serv'd only to augment my troubles; to think my complying with my Master *Clarke's* advice, should prevent my embracing this most agreeable advantageous offer of Mr. *Casborne*; however, we spent the Evening together in good friendship, and I continued his Servant upwards of a Year, during which, Mr. *Casborn* had several times propos'd my being Partner; but as some Gentlemen advis'd me to the contrary, I declin'd accepting this Proposal.

Some Gentlemen who knew what had pass'd betwixt Mr. *Casborn* and myself, were concern'd that it was out of my Power to accept his kind offer, which they all approv'd, and as I had now discover'd I had already a Wife in *London*, they thought it wou'd be more agreeable to have her with me, they therefore advis'd me to send up; I told 'em that I wou'd gladly do, but that it was not in my Power, I was answer'd that they believ'd some Money might be advanc'd to assist me in settling, and my two chief Friends were Dr. *Warren*, then Fellow of *Emanuel College*, and Mr. *Warham*, Fellow of *Jesus*, both pupil Mongers; besides many more Gentlemen, some Fellows of Colleges, some Students that were my School-

School-fellows at *Bishop-Startford*: And by the advice and Promises of these Gentlemen and the assistance of Dr. *Warren* and Mr. *Warham*; I took an House in *Bridge-Street*, which was in the Year 1725, when that worthy good Gentleman Mr. *Warham*, (whom I hope is now living and well at *Swavesy* in *Cambridgeshire*,) knowing that the Reverend Dr. *Lunn*, Arch-Deacon of *Huntingdon*, and then Proctor of *Elsworth* in *Cambridgeshire*, was my Uncle by marrying my Father's Sister, was so kind to wait on him with some Recommendations of me, and inform'd him, that he and many more Gentlemen of the *University* were inclin'd to assist me in settling, and to promote me in Business: The Doctor thank'd him for his good intentions, and told him he intended to bring up his youngest Son an *Apothecary*, and he had rather put him Apprentice to me, than any one, which he did as soon as I was fix'd in my Shop, and gave me great encouragement; Mr. *Warham* return'd overjoy'd to think how favourable all circumstances promis'd in my behalf.

There was one *Stukes* a Brazier next Door to Mr. *Casborn's*, whom I was very intimate with; he hearing I was going to settle, desir'd he might serve me with what Goods I should want in his Way, and farther desir'd he might recommend a Druggist to me, who was a very honest Man, and whose Name was *Holdgate*, and liv'd in *Bishopsgate-Street*; when I went to *London* to buy Potts and Glasses and other materials, I went to Mr. *Holdgate*, who had receiv'd intelligence from *Stukes* of my coming, he receiv'd me with all civility,

and I gave him an Order for Druggs &c, which he sent the same Week to *Cambridge*.

I also went to see my Wife and Child, and her Relations, who upon perceiving this Turn of Affairs were very glad to see me, and after a short Stay I return'd to *Cambridge*, and fitted up my Shop, and as soon as my House was furnish'd, I sent for my Wife and Child. Dr. *Lunn* bound his Son Apprentice to me, and I got very good Business. *Stukes* did not consider that by obliging me, he disoblig'd his Wife's Apothecary *Lardener*, who seeing me thrive and creep in upon his business, attack'd the weaker Vessel in order to put a stop to the promising Prospect I had of well-doing: I was daily getting ground, and went on very well, not suspecting what was contriving in order to Destroy me.

One Evening my Friend *Stukes* came to ask me to spend an Hour with him, when he began with seeming friendship to tell me, he thought tho' I met with Encouragement, yet for want of Money, till I could make returns by my Business, he imagin'd I must be a little put to it: For says he, those Gentlemen who assisted you, they by settling of their Bills, as they become due must make it a little straight with you, and there must be Money to support your Credit, and keep House with, and to pay a few small demands, naming one *Chambers* a Linnen-Draper and some few others. And says *Stukes*, I will advance you some Money, to satisfy these demands, and you shall take time and pay me as you can with conveniency. I thank'd him for his kind offer, told him what money I ow'd I was not press'd for, and that I should be able in a short Time to pay; however, says he, the
sooner

sooner you pay People the better, you'll establish yourself; we will go and pay Mr. *Chambers* for the Sheets and table Linnen this Evening, which accordingly we did, and parted, promising to meet the next Evening at the *Mitre-tavern* in order to have some more money; according to his desire the next Evening we met, and he brought one Mr. *Pyke* an Attorney, to fill up the Bond for the Money. He (in order better to carry on his Design besides paying the Night before seven Pounds to *Chambers*,) advanc'd seven Guineas more, and then I executed the Bond, and he promis'd me I should have Money at any Time when I wanted it: I must own Mr. *Pyke* his Attorney, acted like an honest Man; he saw I was quite ignorant of what I was doing, he said to *Stukes*, I think it is quite right Mr. *Mason* should be acquainted with the Nature of this Bond, *Stukes* reply'd, yes, pray do Mr. *Pyke*; then Mr. *Pyke* told me (tho' after I had sign'd) by these writings, you give Mr. *Stukes* a Power to take possession, or sell and dispose of all your Effects when he pleaseth, without being accountable to you; *Stukes* says yes, this is Matter of Form, and to put it into my Power to prevent any body else hurting you. As *Stukes* had before acted so friendly, I could not mistrust he had any other view; I said to him, Mr. *Stukes*, you do this to keep up my Credit, and in case I die soon, that you may be secure, for as to preventing any ones hurting me 'tis not in the Power of any one, besides Mr. *Greaves* the Joiner who has not yet done his Work, and Mr. *Holdgate*, the Druggist you recommended me to, whose demand is not of above eight Months standing, and his own offer was to give me a twelvemonths Credit,

Credit, and afterwards one order under another. No, *Stukes* reply'd, I don't apprehend you are in any Danger, but your Wife is going to lie-in, and you'll have occasion for money; and you need not apply for any credit, I will let you have money as you shall require; otherwise you'll be oblig'd to ask your Patients for money too soon, which will be a hinderance to your Business; and upon these assurances of his good Intentions we parted.

The next Morning I was not quite satisfied, tho' I could not mistrust he had any Design to hurt me then, yet if afterwards he should take any dislike, I found I had given him a Power to destroy me, which he did.

In three or four Days after, my Wife was brought to bed, and in a fortnight I had my Daughter baptiz'd, and Dr. *Sandys*, and Dr. *Warren* and a Gentlewoman from *London*, with one of my Sisters were Responcers. We had a good deal of Company, and spent the Evening very merrily: But the very next Morning, *Stukes* brought an Execution into my House, and turn'd us out of Possession, which he had no Power to do, and cruelly (when my Wife had lain-in but a fortnight,) stript us of every individual Thing, and left us not a Bed to lie on. He, (before I had given him this Bond and Judgment,) had got a young Fellow ready to take the House and Shop, to whom he sold them, notwithstanding all his base Pretensions to me: And thus was I serv'd by my false Friend *Stukes*; destroy'd when in a prosperous Way, stript and turn'd with a Wife and two young Children into the Street.

I went directly to *London* to my Father (whom I found taken ill of a Pleurisy, of which he died;

died, as I have already given an Account of) and told him the whole Affair, who said as soon as it pleased God he got well again, he wou'd oblige *Stukes* to do me justice; but as he then died, I only had the satisfaction of shewing my last duty to a tender Parent; who if he had liv'd, wou'd have made an Example of *Stukes*, but as it pleas'd God he did not, *Stukes* escap'd unpunish'd and I was ruin'd without redress.

The *University* according to their wonted goodness, and compassion, thro' the Intercession of Mr. *Murden* then Minister of St. *Clements-Parish*, where I liv'd and Fellow of *Sidney-College*, together with Mr. *Lewis*, Fellow of *Jesus-College*, rais'd me a Contribution of upwards of twenty Pounds, which they, and the rest of my Contributors shall have the grateful Acknowledgements of my latest Breath. With this Assistance, I took a little House in the same Parish, and fitted up a Shop; but here I must do justice to my Wife's Father, (whom I went to see during the Time I attended my own Father in his illness,) who came to *Cambridge* with me and seeing the ill-treatment I had met with, he gave me an Order upon one Mr. *Saunders*, in the Country for ten Pounds, which Money I had, and thank him for it.

The very Day I had got my little Shop in order, and a little Business by the encouragement of a few Friends, I was Arrested by Mr. *Fleming* a Tobacconist, for Tobacco I had of him, which was but lately deliver'd, which *Stukes* sold with my other Goods. This Arrest sent me to Goal, where I was confin'd a Month, until Mr. *Fleming* was inform'd of my cruel Usage,

sage, and then he set me at Liberty ; but this sending me to Goal was a fatal Circumstance, it lost me those few Friends I had left, so that my Business dwindled away to nothing ; Mr. *Warham* being gone to a College-living, and Dr. *Warren* to practice Physick, at *St. Edmond's Bury*. That after our Starving three or four Years, and greatly reduc'd, having now four Children, tho' one soon after died ; my Wife was oblig'd to return to London, with two Children, I sent one to my Mother, and I with my Potts and Glasses, went to *Cottenham* in *Cambridgeshire*, with one half Guinea, to seek my Fortune.

I soon got some Business, and my Success recommended me to more, and if I wanted any Medicines the Apothecaries at *Cambridge* would let me have them at prime Cost, and us'd me as I have lately been by those very eminent Men of the Profession at *Market-Harborough*.

There was at *Cottenham* a very worthy Divine, Dr. *Fleetwood*, who soon shew'd me great favour, and in regard to his Benevolence, and Memory, may my Gratitude be as lasting as my Life.

The Encouragement I met with at *Cottenham*, and the Towns adjacent, soon enabled me a third Time to send for my Wife, as I was ever unwilling to live without her, and always desirous she shou'd share my good Fortune ; and in three Months (from our parting at *Cambridge*) we met again at *Cottenham*, where through the continuance of Dr. *Fleetwood* and his Lady's Favours, we met with a great deal of Civility from the Neighbours ; who were a kind, good sort of substantial People ; and there we liv'd in as much comfort and plenty as I could wish for. Added
to

to all these Comforts of Life, Dr. *Fleetwood's* Benevolences were very extensive, his Presents and his frequent Invitations to his House, his employing and genteelly paying me for what I did for his Family; and when ill himself, always gave me half a Guinea of a Morning when I went to see him, with compliments of making me his Physician: These were not the only Instances of his Goodness, but he employ'd me for a great many poor People, which (exclusive of his own, and family Business) amounted to twenty Pounds a Year: Besides these great marks of his charity to his poor Neighbours; he still gave further Proofs of his Goodness, and at any Time if I had a visit to pay three or four Miles, He'd send his Servants and a Coach and four to escort my Lady and I: And besides our dining with him every Sunday, he'd send for me to dinner two or three times a Week, and many Evenings when I was not at his House, he would send his Servant with Wine; and He and his good Lady would come and spend some Hours with us; and greater favours still he wou'd confer, for when *Sturbitch* Fair approach'd, he has presented me with five Guineas at a time, to buy what I had occasion for, &c.

There was at the same time Mr. *Cook*, a Gentleman of great Worth and Property, his Curate, who us'd me also with all marks of civility and friendship, and whose favours as I have great Reason to remember, I shall gratefully acknowledge. Mr. *John Webb*, was a friendly, genteel, spirited, wealthy Man; as also was *Vincent Wayman*, a kind, good natur'd, generous Friend, with Mr. *Peck*, *Dowsey*, and several others. With these Friends and Neighbours I spent some Part of my

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Life

Life very agreeably; till another unlucky Accident happen'd, which once more interrupted my rural Enjoyments and turn'd me a drift.

It happen'd that my good Friend Mr. *Cook*, who was Curate to Dr. *Fleetwood*, had a Living fell to him in *Norfolk*, which made the Curacy of *Cottenham* vacant, and I having some interest with Dr. *Fleetwood*, (unknown to my Friend whom I was inclin'd to serve,) told the Doctor I heard Mr. *Cook* was going to leave him, and I wish'd he wou'd give me leave to recommend to him a neighbouring Clergyman for his Curate, whom I believ'd wou'd be very acceptable to his Parishoners. The Dr. seem'd upon my first application, to give me reason to hope for Success; and I went the next Day to tell my Friend what I had been endeavouring to serve him in, who was greatly pleas'd, and express'd a grateful Sense of my good Intentions; and said, could I but procure him that Curacy, he should never have it in his Power to make me a suitable return. I promis'd him nothing should be wanting in me; and the next Day I din'd with Dr. *Fleetwood*, and renew'd my solicitations: The Doctor then ask'd me who it was, and if ever I heard him preach, and if I thought he wou'd be agreeable to his Parish; all these Questions I answer'd in the behalf of my Friend, and gave the Doctor so much satisfaction that he desired I would fetch him the next Day to dine with him; I went with great joy that same afternoon to my Friend, Mr. *Sese*, Vicar of *Histon*, about two little Miles from *Cottenham*, and told him what progress I had made in his behalf; and also told him, that Dr. *Fleetwood* desir'd he would come the next Day to dine with him.

him. He with great raptures embrac'd me, saying, he shou'd always use his utmost endeavour to make a Return of my Friendship. Mr. *Seft* came the next Day and call'd upon me, and I went with him to dine with Dr. *Fleetwood*; the Doctor receiv'd him with great civility, and as soon as dinner was over, the Doctor told him he was recommended by me, to succeed Mr. *Cook*, and according to the Character I had given, (which he did not doubt but was just,) he should agree with him for the same he gave Mr. *Cook*, which was I think one-hundred Pounds yearly, and to be paid every Quarter. Accordingly Dr. *Fleetwood* covenanted with Mr. *Seft*, Vicar of *Histon*, who was to reside at *Cottenham*; yet to keep his Vicarage of *Histon* too; Mr. *Seft*, commenc'd Curate at Michaelmas 1732, which Curacy he has possess'd upwards of twenty-two Years; and I hope will to the End of his Days, and I am glad I had an opportunity of being so serviceable to him and his Family; altho' his return, was neither consistent with friendship, or gratitude, or becoming a Christian.

Soon after Mr. *Seft* came to *Cottenham*, he thought I too largely shar'd Dr. *Fleetwood's* favours, and he took an opportunity to lessen me in the Opinion of that good Family; which I shall relate.

Dr. *Fleetwood's* Steward or Bailiff, whose name was *Cadwell*, being taken ill of a Pleurisy, Mrs. *Fleetwood*, like many more good Ladies, took Pleasure in Acts of Charity, in the Physical way, and upon *Cadwell's* first complaint gave him a Vomit, and afterwards Sweats &c, which succeeded badly, for by this treatment the Symptoms became more violent, and in a Day or two,

he grew so much worse that Madam *Fleetwood* ordered I should be sent for; accordingly I was, and found him in great Danger, expecting soon he'd die. Vomiting and hot Medicines, instead of Bleeding, and Diluting, in Pleurifies, what must be the Consequence? Altho' I had little or no hopes from any thing that I could do, yet I bled him plentifully, apply'd five Blisters, gave him a Clyster, and ordered him to drink large Quantities of small Liquors, with some cooling Medicines, &c. Seeing the Danger of my Patient, and knowing how much he was in favour with his Master and Mistress, and willing to add to the good Opinion they had of their Curate; I went to Mr. *Sese*, and told him how ill and in what danger *Cadwell* was, and advis'd him (without being sent for) to call and see him, and to offer him his spiritual Assistance, which I said will be taken well of you. The next Morning Mr. *Sese* called, and we went to my Patient together, and by the Way had some talk about his illness, and I said, I wish'd I had seen him sooner, for now I fear'd 'twas too late to do him any service; for giving a Vomit and hot Medicines without bleeding was wrong, and now he's past all recovery I'm sent for to cure him: My Friend *Sese*, (though I had said to him a little more than I was willing Dr. *Fleetwood* and his Lady should know,) did very basely in going to tell them I said that Madam *Fleetwood* had kill'd *Cadwell*, and now had sent for me to cure him.

This unkind Representation was the first and last Return I had for serving Mr. *Sese*, and this prov'd most effectual. This the Dr. and Mrs. *Fleetwood* both took so ill, that they never after employ'd

employ'd me, for Themselves, Servants, or Neighbours, nor any other favours I receiv'd afterwards.

By this unlucky Circumstance, from this base ungrateful Representation, depriving me of Dr. *Fleetwood's* business and favours, I soon lost the Business and Friendship of my Neighbours; and after some endeavours to no purpose, I was with a Wife and four Children starv'd out, and went to *London* in pursuit of better Fortune, which was in the Year 1734.

The Day I left *Cottenham*, I went to take my leave of the Doctor and his Lady; lamenting my unhappiness in forfeiting their Favours, which I had so extensively experienc'd; and altho' a bad use, with no good design, was made of some Words I spoke, it could not be thought I said any thing with a Design to affront them; but since it had so unfortunately happen'd to rob me of that friendship, which was my chief Comfort and Support, I had also lost all the rest of my Friends and Business, and had been starving almost two Years, and now was going to *London*. The Doctor answer'd, he was very sorry it so happen'd, and said, Mr. *Mason*, if you'll make use of my Name in Town, or if you want a Recommendation upon any Account, if You, or any Person will write, I will give you such a one as may be serviceable; and to convince you, that you have my good wishes, accept of this as a token of them, (which was a Present of two Guineas,) and I shall always be glad to hear of your Welfare, and when it may fall in your way, desire you'll call upon me.

When I came to *London*, as my Wife's Father and Mother had hitherto shewn me very small friendship, a Brother of my Wife's, then a young
Man

Man in *Leadenhall-Sreet*, was very ready to promise great Things, and at last I was to be prefer'd to keep a little publick House, to sell fine Ale and Punch, in great *Garden* by *White-Chappel*, and my employ was to keep my Skittle-Ground in Order and to set up the Pinns, when he and his worthy Acquaintance knock'd them down, and to wait upon my Guests; this did not relish: I thought my Birth and Education, intitled me to something a little preferable, and having very poor Encouragement, in about three Months I desir'd he'd dispose of the Skittles and Frames and other Materials, for I must apply for something better; my Wife took a Lodging and work'd plain Work, and what ever was in my Power I did to assist her; I went to be sometime with a Sister in *Hannover-Street*, near the Square, (who always was ready to succour her distress'd Relations, even to her own Prejudice, and some too have made her very bad returns for her kind Succour,) there I continued some time, and afterwards (by the Advice of Mr. *Morrison*, whom I was acquainted with at *St. John's Colledge Cambridge*,) took a Lodging near *Storeys Gate Westminster*, where I practis'd Physick; Mr. *Morrison* and some more Gentlemen recommending me. I had a Patient, one Mrs. *Williamson* in *Charles-Street St. James's*, this Gentlewoman miscarrying in a Fever, and being dangerously ill, and fearing I should be censur'd in case she died, I desir'd a Physician might be called in, who was no less a Man, then Dr. *Hollands*; as Dress goes a great way to make a Man wise, I standing in need of such Advantages, was oblig'd to make the best Appearance I could; I equip'd myself, and in the Evening met the Doctor, whom

whom I inform'd as to the Nature of her Illness, and the Manner I had treated her: The Doctor complaisantly approv'd of the Medicines I had given, but said, that we must have now some regard to the Miscarriage, which was agreed to, and I being the youngest Physician, prescrib'd, and both sign'd the Prescription, and gave it Mr. *Sankey*, her Apothecary; we then both took our leave of our Patient, and appointed the next Day to meet, which we did to a third Visit; she mending, the Doctor took his leave and left her to my Care. Here I must own I was under a great deal of Confusion, lest the Doctor should discover me; and I am really surpriz'd, how many have the Assurance to call themselves Physicians, and practice as such, who have no more claim to it than myself! My Sister being well acquainted with many Persons of Repute help'd me to several Patients, and Mr. *Stirling*, an *Apothecary*, by *Hanover-Square*, has many of my Prescriptions by him to this Day, who really believ'd I was a Graduate, and as such recommended me; but being conscious that I had taken no Degree, nor obtain'd the Sanction of any foreign *University*, I chose as soon as possible to commence Apothecary again. I must relate what extream Pleasure it was to me, when ever I got a small Fee, to carry something good to my Wife and Children, and have walk'd many a dark Night from *Westminster* to *Mile-End*, for that Purpose.

I often read the Papers, to see if I could meet with any Thing offering that I could maintain myself and Family by, I saw an Advertisement for an Apothecary to take care of the Poor of St. *Andrew* above *Barrs*, and St. *George* the *Martyr*;
I

told my Friend Mr. *Morrison*, I had a mind to enquire after this Advertisement, and he went with me to the Master of that Work-house, who was my Name-sake of a good Family out of *Oxfordshire*, and I thought we were nearly related by misfortunes. He told me the Particulars, and tho' a small Sallery, yet an handsome Apartment, and a good Table was allow'd &c, which I thought preferable to the uncertain Way I was in. The Master told me I must bring proper Credentials, sign'd by the Physicians and Apothecaries. My Friend *Morrison* assisting me, I drew up a Testimonial, which I took to Mr. *Wall*, then an Apothecary in *Newgate-Street*, but now of *Fetter-Lane*, who was my early Acquaintance at *Bishop-Startford-School*, and we were Apprentices both at the same Time in *Fenchurch-Street*; tho' I believe I had not seen him for the last ten or a dozen Years. He was very glad to see me; I told him, I had a Favour to beg, he ask'd me what it was, and any thing in his Power he was ready to serve me. Why Sir, I am come to beg your Interest towards procuring me a little Place, and then acquainted him what it was; he was both surpris'd and concern'd, that I should apply for so mean an Employ, for he heard I was in good Business in *Cambridgeshire*. 'Tis very true, but I have met with so many misfortunes which have reduc'd me to want both Business and an Home. This I can assure you Mr. *Wall*, I have never done any Thing to forfeit my Character, and can produce from every corner strong Testimonials to certify it, and no one ever got any discredit by Recommending me; I then gave him the Paper which I had drawn up, and he directly went with me to *Batson's Coffee-House*,

House, where we met with several eminent Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries.

Mr. *Wall* gave my Paper to Dr. *Mead*, who said he had that Day sign'd one for another Candidate which he should not, had he known I had apply'd; but the Doctor recommended it to *Sir Edward Hulse*, Dr. *Crow* and the rest of the Gentlemen of Physick and Surgery, who all sign'd it, and Dr. *Mead* told me, he would speak to some of the Electors in my behalf, and wish'd me success. Mr. *Springett*, was then at *Batson's*, whom I had been some Years known to, he told me he would the next Day be at the meeting of the Master-Warden's Court of Assistants, and many more of the Apothecary's Company, at a Coffee-House in *Bow-Lane*, and would recommend me to them; accordingly I met him the next Day, and had an additional strong Recommendation sign'd by them.

As the Time of Election would not be in less than a fortnight, besides the Interest I made in Town, I wrote to Dr. *Fleetwood*, Dr. *Sandys*, and other Gentlemen of great Eminence at *Cambridge*, who directly sent up Credentials in my behalf; Mr. *Lewis* sign'd my Paper, as Fellow of *Jesus-Colledge* in *Cambridge*, whom I accidentally met with in Town; Mr. *Wall* and Mr. *Morrison*, and some other Friends attended the Election; and I with my Friends appear'd, and produc'd my Papers of Recommendation, which were so strong that I receiv'd the Compliments of the Committee, as deserving something much more preferable; but one of the Candidates being a Parishioner reduc'd, whom they must have otherwise maintain'd, they thought proper to choose him.

The Committee of this Work-house consists of five and twenty Gentlemen, and five and twenty substantial Tradesmen, besides the *Rector* of St. *Andrew's*, *Holborn*, and the parish Officers. And amongst the Committee there was one Mr. *S-n-b-n* an *Apothecary*, who hearing my Testimonials read, and seeing Mr. *Wall*, whom he knew, with me, He the next Day went to Mr. *Wall*, and desir'd Mr. *Wall* to send me to him, and told him he thought I deserv'd something better, and he had an Offer to make me, which he imagin'd would be more agreeable. Mr. *Wall* sent for me and told me, what Mr. *S-n-b-n* said, and directed me to him; and at the same Time made me a Present, which favour I had almost forgot to mention, for which, with many other Marks of his Friendship I thank him. I then went to wait on Mr. *S-n-b-n*, who told me he had lately bought a Shop in *Hatton-Garden*, which was the late Mr. *Astley's*, in order to secure some Families, which us'd to employ Mr. *Astley*; but being at too great a distance from his Shop, he could not conveniently attend the Business of both, and he had put in a Journeyman, whom he thought too young to visit Patients. We went together to the Shop in *Hatton-Garden*, where we covenanted for forty Pounds per Annum, with Lodging, Fire, Candle &c, every thing but Diet, allowing me what advantages I cou'd make in the venereal Practice, and five Shillings in the Pound profit for all such new Patients as I should bring to the Shop; and upon these terms I enter'd upon Business, and took a Lodging for my Wife and Children in great *Kirby-Street*, where we dieted together.

Mr. *S-n-b-n*, approving my application to Business

finess, and that the Patients were well satisfied with my attendance; he in less than three Months propos'd Partnership, and accordingly we articulated, and for about three Months more we acted as Partners; and then he told me I should take the Shop upon my own footing, and he would reserve only six or eight of the best Families, as good will for his letting me have the Shop and the Business. I willing to comply with any terms so as to be enabled to maintain myself and Family, we came to a third Agreement, and in less than six Months, I was Journeyman, Partner, and Master. I was to give him the same Price for the Shop, Druggs, Medicines, Utensils; &c, as he gave to Mrs. Astley, notwithstanding he took most of the best Families from the Shop; which I was to attend for nothing, and find them medicines into the Bargain. He then gave me possession, and I, for his security gave him a Bond and Judgment, and I was also at any Time, when he requir'd, to attend the Patients belonging to his Shop in *Devonshire-Street*. This was a safe Bargain on his side; he was sure of his Profits, and if I made not good my Performance, he had it always in his Power to repossess himself.

The first thing that gave me Disturbance after I commenc'd Master, was one *Parnell*, a Carpenter, who fitted up my Skittle-Ground in *Mile-End*: He finding I was settled, and my Wife's good Brother Mr. *H--ll*, who put me into that new Way of Life, and ordered and directed every thing, and every thing I left him to make the best of, to pay the People that had done the Work; did not think proper to pay them, and by this Carpenter I was without any notice sued; neither did this

Brother after I was arrested, when I apply'd to him, and told him upon what terms Mr. *S-n-b-n* had let me into the Shop; urging, that shou'd he hear of this unlucky Affair, he wou'd be exasperated, and in order to secure himself take the Shop from me, as he had it in his Power so to do. All this had no influence upon my Wife's kind Brother; but after the expence of Law amounting to as much as the Debt, and an Execution approaching, I then told Mr. *S-n-b-n* of the Affair, that he might not suffer from this unkind Usage of my good Brother in Law; and at the same Time I gave Mr. *S-n-b-n* back my Writings, and also gave him Possession of the Shop again: Mr. *S-n-b-n* like a good Friend, seeing I was likely in a little Time to surmount this Difficulty, went to the Attorney and gave him Satisfaction for the Debt and Charges, and repossess'd me of the Shop and Business, for which I was much oblig'd to him, and thankful. He then apply'd to all my Wifes good Relations, and desir'd that ten of them would advance me five Pounds each, and he would farther advance me fifty Pounds more, to set me above Difficulties, and the better to enable me to prosecute the prosperous View I then had of well doing, Mr. *S-n-b-n* with my Friend Mr. *Wall*, prevail'd upon two or three of them to meet us at the *Salutation Tavern*, upon *Holborn-Bridge*, but nothing could we get them to Advance; in short, these unkind People thought Mr. *S-n-b-n* had already done so much, that he must do more, or he would be a very great Sufferer. This their base way of thinking, was enough to exasperate the most stedfast Friend; but notwithstanding the slights of my Relations, that were sufficient to weaken the strongest Inclination of Strangers, yet Mr. *S-n-b-n*

S-n-b-n was so good as to join with me to borrow fifty Pounds, to pay this unlucky demand of Debt and Charges of the Carpenter for Skittle Frames &c; and to supply my further Wants. As I had now taken the House upon a long Lease at thirty Pounds per Ann. and wanted some Furniture, having got my Family Home to me in *Hatton-Garden*, and labouring under great Disadvantages in such straight Circumstances with a large Family, yet went on very well, by renewing some old Acquaintance, and getting some new, I added very much to my Business and lived in good Reputation. In about a Year after I had been settled in *Hatton-Garden*, there became a Vacancy for an Apothecary to take Care of the Poor in Shoe Lane Workhouse belonging to St. *Andrew's, Holborn*, for a certain Salary of thirty Pound per Ann. but the venereal Patients, and some out Patients besides, were seperately paid for, which made it amount to near as much more, and being concern'd for a Parish in a publick Capacity, was a good introduction to better business.

Mr. *Harris* an eminent and wealthy Apothecary, was that year Master of our Company, and being a Gentleman of great Influence in St. *Andrew's Parish*, to whom I apply'd, by my good Friend Mr. *Wall*, who at that time was Partner with Mr. *Harris*, made interest in my behalf. I was also greatly obliged for Mr. *Barton's* favours upon this Account; and by the Interest of these Gentlemen, I was chose, and continu'd Apothecary to their Poor, as long as I liv'd in their Parish.

Mr. *S-n-b-n*, as soon as I was elected Apothecary to this Work-house, was so good as to offer me one of his Apprentices, till I could get one of my own, to save me the Expence of a Journeyman, which

which would be helpful to me, and advantageous to the young Man, by seeing a great deal of publick Practice, whereby Youth may be improv'd. This piece of Friendship I suspected was more the desire of Mr. *S-n-b-n* than myself (as the young Man might have an Opportunity of giving his Master an account of my Proceedings, as the Brother was lately dead, who was there for the same Purpose, but if I was sure that was the View, I think as Mr. *S-n-b-n* was so largely concern'd he ought to have all the Satisfaction he required) I thank'd him, and accepted his Offer, as I was conscious, what Information might be given, wou'd rather prove to my Advantage than otherwise, as I had nothing cou'd hurt me, unless a Representation of my Wife's refractory Temper, which he already knew, and has often said, if I got 1000 Pounds per Ann. her Behaviour wou'd ruin me. I continu'd on my Business very well, this being the third Year, and tho' he seem'd to be my Friend he was of a very unsettled Temper, and I had enough to do to please him; and really think it wrong Judgment of any one to lay too much Restraint upon Persons who are under Obligations, when after three or four Years Probation, they meet with no cause of Suspicion, it only makes Favours have an unpleasant Relish. Such was his Behaviour to me upon going to see my Wife, who after a Fever was gone to *Abride* in *Essex* for a little Air as I shall relate. I went one Afternoon, when my Business was taken care of, to see her, and staid till the next Evening, and upon my return Home, I found Mr. *S-n-b-n* in my House who told me he had taken Possession, and should keep it, since I went out upon Pleasure and staid all Night; I expostulated the Matter with him,

him, and told him I could not think he was in earnest; but he insisted upon it; then Sir I tell you I am not to be turn'd out after this Manner, and if you are in earnest, you should have come with a legal Authority, and not at this time of Night to bid me turn out as if I was your Footman; he finding this would not do, alter'd his Tone, and said he had no other design than to fright me; I did not like the Jest, but what had that very Day irritated him, was, Mr. *Goodwin* (whose Family I had attended, and found in Medicines almost three Years,) had told him he understood that I was not acting for myself, but for him; and if that was the Case, he should employ an Apothecary of his own choosing, unless he cou'd employ me solely, and by this declaration of Mr. *Goodwin's*, I had him afterwards for my own proper Patient.

Soon after this, Mr. *S-n-b-n* came one Morning in a wonderful good Temper, and told me, there was something happen'd that would be a Chariot for me, I ask'd him what that could be, he said 'tis a Secret yet, and only known by the Committee (of which I'm one) and I am come to tell you that you may be soon enough in your Application; and you'll certainly have it, upon the Recommendation you before brought, and they all allow you to be the most fit Man, and my Brother and I with several more will make all the Interest we can for you; but pray Sir what is it? Why he reply'd, the Apothecary who was chose when you before offer'd yourself to look after the Poor in *Grays-Inn-Lane Work-house*, is not capable of taking Care of the Poor, and the Gentlemen are determin'd to farm it, and will give a Salary of one-hundred Pounds per Ann. to a Man they shall approve;
and

and then he gave me a List of the Committee, and bid me lose no time; I went directly to consult that worthy Gentleman Mr. *Barton*, who readily visited some and wrote to others in my behalf, I apply'd to every Man of them, and most of them I knew; and I met with as much Encouragement as I could wish for: To make short of it, I met with so many promises that I thought myself quite safe; Mr. *S-n-b-n*, had us'd to call once, or twice a Day, to know my Success, and I gave him a particular Account, which he seem'd greatly pleas'd with: the next Day when he came, he told me who besides were making interest, I think no less than six; but he said none can hurt you, unless two should join and one decline at the Election in favour of the other, and I think the better to secure your Interest, will be for me to make what Interest I can, as for myself; and when the Election comes on, I will resign in your Favour; this I lik'd much, and he set off in making interest for himself; which in fact I found he had been doing all the while, under pretence of serving me, as the sequel will make appear: I stuck very close to my Friends, and one of them told me the next Morning Mr. *S-n-b-n* had been with him for his Vote; yes said I to him, that's all the same, Mr. *S-n-b-n* does that to lessen the Strength of my Opponents.

I had acquainted the Committee of that Workhouse in *Shoe-Lane*, I was then employ'd by, of my design; and every one promis'd me their best Endeavours to serve me, and ordered a Testimonial of my Care, Diligence and Success, to be drawn up, and very strongly set forth, which they all sign'd to be deliver'd at the Day of Election,

which

which time being come, I got my Friends together at the *King's-Head-Tavern*, near *Middle-Row Holborn*, and no sooner had I sat down, but the Drawer told me, a Gentleman in the Yard wanted to speak with me; and who should it be? but Mr. *S-n-b-n*, I let him know I had got my Friends with me; which were ready to vote: He then told me he thought it would be most adviseable for me to decline in favour of him, and if he was chose, he wou'd directly transfer it to me; saying, as he had liv'd so many Years in reputation in the Parish, and had been of the Committee for several Years; that should I carry my Election since he had apply'd, it wou'd make him look little; and he only wanted the Credit of being Elected, and if he did keep it half a Year, or a Year at the farthest, he then would resign it to me; I told him he greatly surpris'd me; nevertheless, if my Friends in the Room advis'd me, I would do it; but if they did not, and should I, (after giving them so much trouble) decline standing, and ever after apply to them, no one wou'd serve me; and desir'd he'd go into the Room and consult them; which he refus'd, and then he began to be in a Passion, and told me he should insist upon it; adding, I was in his Power and if I did not I must take what follow'd, and left me in the utmost Confusion.

I directly acquainted my Friends what had pass'd, who to a Man insisted upon my standing the Election, and advis'd me to let Mr. *Barton* know what had happen'd; which I did, and he thought it a piece of cruel, unfair treatment; and insisted upon my standing the Election, and sent the Beadle of *Shoe-Lane Liberty*, with my Re-

commendation to the Committee; and he was so good as to attend himself in my behalf; I told Mr. *Barton* what obligations I was under to Mr. *S-n-b-n*, in whose Power it was to destroy me, which he had given me some reasons to think he would do; nevertheless go I must, and so I did; I call'd on my Friends whom I left at the *King's-Head*, and they went with me to vote.

As soon as I, with my Friends, came to the Work-House, Mr. *S-n-b-n* met me in the Yard, I told him I was very sorry to do any thing contrary to his commands, but Mr. *Barton* and the Gentlemen of the Committee of *Shoe-Lane Workhouse*, had sent a Recommendation by the Beadle, and ordered me to attend; he in anger answered, you do this in opposition to me, and you must expect the consequence. Fearing I should carry my Election; a Question was put (I will not say by whom) whether or no, I had the same pretensions to be a Candidate, as an Apothecary who liv'd in that Liberty. 'Tis to be observ'd, that this great Parish of St. *Andrew's, Holborn*, is divided into three distinct Liberties, and has three seperate Work-Houses (*viz,*) this in *little Grays-Inn-Lane*, another on *Saffron-Hill*, and the other in *Shoe-Lane*, and every distinct Liberty maintains the Poor of that Liberty; so that each Parish has different Committees, and Officers to each Work-house: And upon this Question, a warm debate arose, which postpon'd the Election a fortnight.

My justly esteem'd Friend Mr. *Barton*, and the rest of the Gentlemen, my well wishers, advised me to take an House, and fit up a Shop in that Liberty; which I did, and sent a Bed, and other Goods, and either my Apprentice or my other Man

Man lay there, and when I could not be at that Shop, one of my Servants was. This my Friend *S-n-b-n* perceiving, and as a proof of what I might farther expect, came to me and insisted upon my taking up the Bond we borrow'd the fifty Pounds upon, as some part of it was unpaid; which by the Assistance of good Mr. *Barton*, I paid the remainder and continu'd my application for the next Election; at which time I met Mr. *S-n-b-n* again, who told me he found I was resolv'd to oppose him, but he would make me a suitable return. The Point being again debated, who had a right to stand Candidates; I was admitted as such, by a great Majority; I being call'd in, told the Gentlemen, I had once before offer'd to serve them by being in the House, and the Reason I repeated my Sollicitations this time was solely owing to Mr. *S-n-b-n* who gave me the first intelligence of their intending to farm it, and who also at the same time gave me a List of this honourable Committee, to whom (before this time) I was recommended in such strong terms which engag'd me the Favours of Mr. *S-n-b-n*, who had (till this unhappy difference) given me great reason to believe him my sincere Friend, and I had in this as well as in every other transaction, since I first knew him, acted with strict conformity to his Will; and never had any thoughts of giving you Gentlemen farther trouble upon this Account, had not Mr. *S-n-b-n* (under a pretence of Friendship) come and advis'd me to it; when at the same time he promis'd me all the Interest in his Power; but he finding the Encouragement I met with, from most of you Gentlemen here present, he (in about a Week after I had made my Application) came and

told me nothing could prevent my Success; unless any other two Candidates, should transfer the Interest of one to the other; in order the better to guard against this, he told me he would make interest for himself, as he was sensible he could attain some particular Votes that I could not; and accordingly this was agreed to, by us both; and every Day we saw each other to make known our Success, till about two hours before the last meeting of this honourable Committee, Mr. *S-n-b-n* came to me at the *King's-Head-Tavern* in *Holborn*, where I had met my Friends in order to proceed to the Election; but I was soon call'd to Mr. *S-n-b-n*, whom I was very glad to see, imagining he was come according to promise to join me with his Friends: He then told me, he thought it most adviseable that I should decline in his Favour, that he might be elected, who had liv'd so long in this Liberty, and I had been so little a time in the Parish. He said it would be a discredit to him, should I be chose and he not, assuring me at the same time, that was his only reason for standing, and that if he was elected, he would not long keep it, but transfer it to me; I was surpriz'd at this sudden turn of mind, and told him that in my opinion I was the most likely to be chosen; on this consideration, as the Gentlemen knew him to be a Man of Fortune, with good Business and no Children; and as he was pleas'd to say it would be a Chariot for me; I said to him you have one already, and I apprehend my being in low Circumstances, with a large Family, consisting of six Children, besides myself Wife and Servants, all supported by my Industry: And urged that these Considerations may prove
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Motives with these worthy Gentlemen, as I hope they do; I further urged to Mr. *S-n-b-n*, that I should use my Friends with disrespect was I to slight their Favours, and should (hereafter) any thing offer, I could then expect no favour; but if my Friends who are hear ready to vote for me, they will consent to it, in obedience to your Commands, I will readily do it; and desir'd he'd go into the Room to them to know their pleasure, which Mr. *S-n-b-n* refus'd, and parted with me in anger. I directly told my Friends what had pass'd betwixt us, who all insisted upon my standing, and advis'd me to acquaint Mr. *Barton*, whom I did, and he was of the same opinion, and it is in compliance with their Commands I now offer myself before you; and I should with the utmost unwillingness oppose Mr. *S-n-b-n* in any other case, as I am so much in his Power, but in this I'm oblig'd; and I have already receiv'd an earnest of, and have farther expectations of his severity, from what he said to me just now in the Yard. And then I told the Gentlemen the nature of these Obligations, and further said to them, should it be your pleasure, Gentlemen, from the recommendation of my Friends, the narrowness of my Circumstances, the largeness of my Family, and my desire to maintain them, with other unhappy Circumstances I have related; I say, should these excite your compassion and induce you to make me Apothecary to this House, I shall not only do my Duty as such, but shall to my last hour, bear a grateful remembrance of your Goodness, and in order to prevent my threatening destruction, I desire not to receive one Penny of my Salary; but as it becomes due it may be paid to Mr. *S-n-b-n*, which I hope he'll accept as a suffi-

sufficient Security for the remains of what is due to him; I then made my Obedience and withdrew.

The Gentlemen then proceeded to an Election, and agreeable to an old Proverb; while two Dogs are fighting for a Bone, comes a third and runs away with it. For this unlucky Division made an opening for another to succeed; and they chose Mr. *Smithsman*, an eminent Apothecary in *Devonshire-street*; who is Apothecary to this Day, and this Election was in the Year 1738.

Thus disappointed of my hopes, and depriv'd not only of my Friend, but now he was commenc'd the reverse; yet he thought an immediate Execution of his displeasure would be look'd upon as revenge. I was now by a close adherence to that Business I had, making what Provision I could in order to make him another payment against Christmas; which he promis'd to accept when I pay'd the Bond off about Michaelmas; but about two Months after on a Saturday Night, he had ordered his Nephew (who was then my Apprentice) to let him know when I was at home; he was then waiting for me, with two Bailiffs, with a Writ to send me to Goal, and an Execution against my Effects, and as soon as I came in, my Apprentice (Judas like) went and betrayed his Master: But providentially, whilst he was gone to fetch his Uncle and the Bailiffs, I was sent for to *Mackrell's-Coffee-House* in *Bartlett's-Buildings*, which is in the City Liberty, and *Hatton-Garden* is in *Middlesex*; my other Man more trusty, (tho' to him he had made some overtures to prove false;) came and told me Mr. *S-n-b-n* with two Bailiffs were in the House, and had taken Possession, and they wanted me very much. I bid him go home and

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tell his Mistress not to be frighted, and about twelve or one o'Clock I would come, as I knew then they could not execute a Warrant of Arrest; I went first to Mr. *Jones* an Attorney, and told him what had happen'd, and he gave me great hopes by his assurances of Friendship, which shall be hereafter explain'd. And about one or two o'Clock on Sunday Morning I went home, and found these two Bailiffs in Possession, and as this was on Christmas-Eve, I told them as they were come to keep Christmas with me, I would give them the best Entertainment in my Power, and order'd them a good Piece of roast Beef and a plumb Pudding for Dinner, and gave them as much strong Beer and Punch as they would drink, telling them as I could only have the Pleasure of their Company that Day with safety, I should make them welcome, but they must excuse my seeing them the next Day; I had got them to such a Pitch that one of them said, God bless you Master, I am sorry for this misfortune, but if we should see you to-morrow it may be worse; I thank'd them, and leaving them merry, and what Liquor they would drink, I went to Mr. *Jones*, and sent him to Mr. *S-n-b-n*, to know if he would take the Men out of Possession, or what other Terms he would come to; who answer'd, he would hear of nothing, but all his Demands with Charges. I found nothing but my Destruction was aim'd at, and destroy'd I was. I went to acquaint my Wife's Relations of this Affair, but could obtain no redress from them; indeed her Brother came with me to my Lawyer, who said he'd soon make Mr. *S-n-b-n* glad to come to terms; I went to my Landlord Mr. *Berkley* on *Ludgate-Hill*, to acquaint him with what had happen'd

happen'd, that he might seize for half a years Rent, which was all I owed him.

I return'd home and found my Christmas visitors very merry; we sup'd together, and afterwards took a chearful Glass, and my Guests drank so freely that they were obliged to be assisted in getting to bed, and I return'd to my Lodgings in *Crutched-Fryers*; Mr. Jones with some other assistance, whilst these Gentlemen were taking their repose mov'd most of the best Goods to his House, in hopes it would be a Means of bringing Mr. *S-n-b-n* into better Terms: Altho' these Goods were remov'd off the Premises, to prevent being sold by the Sheriff's Officers, no part of them were disposed of; but as soon as the Commission was taken out they were all brought back and taken an Account of. The Shop remain'd, which the Landlord seiz'd for his Rent.

The next Morning the Sheriff's Officer came to see after his two Bumms who had the effects of yesterdays regale in their Heads and knew nothing of the matter till the Officer told them, who drew his Hanger and swore he'd demolish them; but the Goods being remov'd before an Inventory was made, the Officers escap'd being liable, and what was left did little more than pay the Rent. Mr. *S-n-b-n*, being inform'd what had happen'd, threatned the Officer very hard, but he came into no trouble. Yet after all this, he'd come to no reasonable Terms; it was not the Money he wanted so much, as to gratifie a piece of Revenge I fear: But as the Goods were gone and the Shop seiz'd for Rent, 'twas not worth while keeping these Men in Possession, so they were soon discharg'd.

As Mr. *S-n-b-n*, would come yet to no agreement,

ment, that was in my Power to make by the Advice of my Friends, in order to prevent my total Destruction; I acquainted my Creditors, which were not many, with my present unhappy Situation, and it was their Opinion, the most effectual Way to prevent my entire Ruin, and to free me from future Persecution, would be taking out a Commission of Bankruptcy. And that most justly esteem'd Gentleman, who a little before assisted me in paying the Bond upon the first Breach betwixt Mr. *S-n-b-n* and myself, was so good (with others that knew my hard treatment) to be my petitioning Creditors; and accordingly a Commission was taken out; and I agreeable to my Summons surrenderd myself to the Commissioners, and the Goods before remov'd were all brought back and deliver'd for the Use of my Creditors; and according to the Appointments of the Commissioners, I met them at *Guild-Hall*, and made a true discovery of my Effects, book Debts, &c. And at last I got through this long, tedious, expensive Trouble; and my Certificate was sign'd, and I set off again. Altho' this was a most effectual Means to prevent the design of Cruelty and Revenge; yet it was attended with most unhappy Consequences; for first, during the time I was oblig'd to be absent from business, I must inevitably loose part of it, and when I began again I had not Six-pence to set off with; and those who had lost Money by me, I could expect no credit from; and after such an Odium as being a Bankrupt, I could neither get credit for a Loaf, or any thing to keep us a-live with; my Wife's Relations (who knew I was by this Commission clear'd) yet would not advance one Farthing to enable me to prosecute

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my Business. I was oblig'd to call in the Demands of my own Relations, being put to it, to prove myself in debt sufficient to obtain a Commission, for a Man must owe one-hundred Pounds to one Person, or one-hundred and fifty Pounds to two, or he must owe two-hundred Pounds in the whole, and it signifies nothing if he owes it to two-hundred Persons; which shews that after all the vicissitudes of this Life, with a large Family I was put to it, to muster up demands to that amount; which was an Evidence I had not in all my difficulties run greatly into debt; and to suffer the same Reproach, and to be at the same Expence for a trifle, as for twenty-thousand Pounds, I look upon it wrong judgment for any Man to become a Bankrupt for small Sums; for my Debts and Effects amounted to little more than paid the Expences: And I suffered in my Reputation, lost my Business, and had not a Penny to help myself with; and my good Wife's kind Relations, who were Sun-shine Friends, did not only refuse me assistance, but afterwards they never so much as employ'd me; and my Landlord seeing I was so reduc'd, oblig'd me to give him an Order to receive the Salary of the Work-house, as it became due, for satisfaction of his Rent; and to supply the Demands of a Family, those few Persons which did employ me, I was oblig'd to press for Money sooner than most Folks like; and often to prevent our starving, I have not only been forc'd to borrow Money upon my Goods, but frequently upon my Cloaths too.

I have impartially related what pass'd betwixt Mr. S-n-b-n and myself, from our first Engagement to our last, and the bad Consequences which have ensu'd, and I leave the unprejudic'd to form what Judgment

Judgment he pleaseth. The former part of his Treatment most evidently had the appearance of Friendship and Charity, but the latter seems quite the reverse; and what could be his motives at first? I hope not a regard altogether to his own Interest, any more, than the last was owing to resentment: I would rather believe them to arise from the unkind Usage of my Wife's Relations, and her violent Imprudence, which he often told me, he fear'd would be my ruin; but I shall say no more upon this Subject, as I can't answer for myself, what in the same Circumstances I should have done; only this, was it to come over again I would give it up, as I had receiv'd such favours, and I would have trusted to his honour which I should have done at that time; wou'd my Friends have given me leave. But upon the Whole, as things were thus unhappily conducted, we were both great sufferers, which was solely owing to his rash Treatment. But after all that has happen'd, I still will submit to the Character he will at this Day give me; and as for the Favours he did me I heartily thank him, and for the ill Usage, if he so design'd it, I sincerely forgive him; and what he hath suffer'd by such rash treatment, I am greatly concern'd at, and with the most unfeigned Sincerity wish him all the happiness he can wish himself; and I hope he in return forgives me.

Now to return; being thus reduc'd, I made known my distresses to Mr. *Westwood*, an eminent and worthy Apothecary in *Fenchurch-Buildings*, whose Compassion soon engaged him to shew me proofs of his Pity, and who was so kind amongst the fraternity and others of his Acquaintance, with the Advice and Recommendation of Mr. *Barton*,

whom with the utmost sense of Gratitude, I can't too often mention, raised me a Purse of thirty Pounds; and I shall be guilty of ingratitude, was I to forget the bounty of my School-fellow, Sir *William Calvert*, who largely contributed; as also another worthy Gentleman, who is an ornament to our Profession, *George Garnier Esq*; who was not only very bountiful in his Contributions, but frequently treated me with great humanity and compassion. Mr. *Westwood*, with part of this Money, redeem'd my Goods and Cloaths, paid some few small debts, and replenish'd my Shop, and put me into a better Condition to attend business; tho' after the fatal Bankruptcy I had very little to attend; this was in the Year 1739.

About this time my Family were afflicted with the Small-pox, of which I buried two Children, and soon after one of Convulsions, and a little time after that, I buried a Daughter of a eleven or twelve Years of Age, and while I liv'd in *Hatton-Garden*, four; and had as many born: But one of my greatest troubles was the death of my eldest Daughter, and to add to it, the Day she lay a dying, my Landlord seiz'd for rent, and took an account of the Bed and Bedding she lay upon, which she was sensibly affected with and died in a few hours after. With these great troubles and straight circumstances I struggled near two Years, when the Work-house was my chief Business and that was engag'd for rent.

I must take Notice that many Temptations are offer'd by a set of wicked artful Villains to Persons in distress'd Circumstances: These Sharpers make it their business to find out Persons who are by adverse Fortunes reduc'd to poverty, and they
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under pretence of serving such unfortunate, make a property of them; I shall relate an instance or two of such Practices, to guard People in distress from being made more so by this Sort of Impostors.

There was one *John A-st-ll*, a reduc'd Tradesman, being afterwards put to his Wits to live, took up a Trade of discounting Notes, for which he receiv'd Premiums. This Man being one Day at the *Magpye*, at *Holborn-bridge*, and hearing me talking with my Landlord, enquir'd who I was, and the next time I came to the House he introduc'd himself into my Company, and began with saying, how sorry he was for my late misfortunes, when I was before in so good a Way, but added it was not my case alone, for he had shar'd the same Fate; but now was in a comfortable Way of Living, and his business was to help People in distress, by assisting them with small Sums, and if they kept their payment need never be put to it, &c. As my pressing necessity was urgent; and I unwilling to sink, and ready to catch at every twigg, made me listen the more to this Fellow; who told me, altho' I had met with misfortunes, as I was not in debt, and had preserv'd a good Character, he'd engage to get me ten or twenty Pounds upon my Note, for a small discount; I told him I greatly question it; yes he said, if I would give him a Note payable in three or four months for ten Pounds, he'd bring me the Money in a day or two; accordingly I gave him a Note. The next morning he called upon me, to appoint my meeting him at the same House, at one o'Clock, where the Person who was to advance the Money would be. At the time fixt I went, where I found him, but no one else; it being dinner time he thought

a Beef-flake would be very suitable to his Friend, who was coming with the Money; I ordered it to be got ready, and as soon as it was, he was as ready for it, not waiting for his Friend, who he believ'd by staying so long would dine first; and after washing his Dinner down with as much Beer as he could drink, thought something might have disappointed his coming then; but he'd see him that night to know the Reason and to be certain when and where we should meet, and would let me know in the morning. The next morning he came with a Brother sharper with him, who wanted me to accept of a Draught for twenty Pounds, which he was to buy Goods with; this offer I absolutely refus'd, and after these Gentlemen had taken a Glass or two each of Cinnamon-Water, I was to meet them about noon at the *Elephant* without *Temple-Bar*, when he had some Pork-chops dress'd for him and his Friend, who never came, but after staying as long as he thought fit, he would go to see for him whom he never found. The next day I was sure to see him with some excuse, and in the evening the Person would without fail be with the Money at the *Heath-Cock* in the *Strand*, where I met him, and to as much purpose as before; sometimes he'd bring a shabby genteel young Fellow, whom he call'd 'Squire, and who was the next Week to receive some rent out of the Country, and if I wanted fifty Pounds I should have it, and upon my own Note, and for what time I pleas'd; then he and his 'Squire were to dine with me on the following Sunday, and settle the time of meeting him, which I did. I soon discover'd the game this Fellow was playing, and since I had been so much impos'd on, I thought

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I would let him go on a little longer, and was oblig'd so to do that I might get my Note of him again. I met him several times after, when I had no expectations of Money, but to get him into a humour to give me my Note: At last I told him I found my credit was not good enough to borrow money; I desir'd he'd return the Note, and for what pains he had taken to serve me I would make him a proper return, and give his Wife a Bottle of Wormwood Water, as she had before many a comfortable Cordial; he said he was resolv'd to serve me, and desir'd I would have a little Patience, which indeed I was forc'd to, by complying with more meetings just to the same purpose, as many before I had given him; only about a month before my Note was due, by many more repeated entertainments I got my Note again: Altho' I knew this Fellow's Villany, I was oblig'd to meet him when and where he pleas'd, and to treat him with what he'd eat and drink, to get out of his Clutches. I no sooner discover'd his Intentions, but I set down every day, what I paid for his eating and drinking and whereat, with the Drums and Medicines for himself, Wife, and shabby Companions, to the Amount of three Pounds ten Shillings; and some little time after I had got my Note, when he was hugging himself with the thoughts of what he had made of me, I arrested him and recover'd every Farthing besides Costs; and I wish others would serve such sharpening Villains the same Sauce.

Another set are upon the Hibernian Establishment of Fortune hunting; one of these Gentlemen came to me with a Purse of twenty Guineas, to let him lodge at my House for a Fortnight, and to
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give him a Character, being about to marry a Lady of Fortune, which I absolutely refused with disdain.

A drest up, middle aged Woman, came as an apothecary's Widow out of *Suffolk*, as she pretended, to get a Place in some Gentleman's Family, and had heard of one; but as she was a stranger in Town, wanted a Character, and if I would be so kind to give her one, she wou'd give me five Guineas; this Woman I at once judg'd wanted to get into some Family to rob them; I threatn'd her as such, wondering at her impudence, turn'd her out of Doors and heard no more of the Widow.

Adding to my Distresses, I found Poverty had not only laid me open to want and reproach, but I was beset with such Temptations I was resolv'd to remove from; for what with the Hardships I underwent, and the coolness I met with from Persons I was once in esteem by, and also slighted by my Wife's Relations and others, who ought to have strove to alleviate the cares and difficulties I was struggling with; these things were too hard to bare!

Upon reading the account of Mr. *Dresser's* Death, who was an Apothecary of good Business in *Cambridge*, I went to Dr. *Mead*, (whose Favours I shall ever gratefully acknowledge) and told him what a miserable Situation I was reduc'd to, and that when a man's Character is once slur'd, it was seldom or never he could (especially in distress'd Circumstances) make any thing of it afterwards in the same Neighbourhood; and as there was a vacancy at *Cambridge*, there I would willingly go, if I could accomplish it, in hopes of better Fortune: The Dr. readily said he would write to Dr. *Bently*, and some other Gentlemen,

tllemen, and do me all the service in his Power, which accordingly he did; I then acquainted Mr. *Barton*, Mr. *Garnier*, Mr. *Westwood*, and many more Friends, of my intention, who advis'd me to it, since after such cruel Treatment I was not likely to succeed in *Hatton-Garden*, and upon this occasion Mr. *Garnier* was so kind as to renew his charitable Assistance; and in the Year 1740, I went to *Cambridge*, with Letters of Recommendation to Dr. *Bently*, and several more Gentlemen.

When I came to *Cambridge* Mrs. *Dresser* had sold her Shop, and let the House to one Mr. *Pyke*, an eminent Surgeon and Apothecary at *Leighton Buzard* in *Bedfordshire*, (of whom I shall speak with that justice and regard which is due to him). But the reception I met with from Dr. *Bently*, and the encouragement I receiv'd from many Gentlemen in the University, Town, and County, upon my waiting on them, with Testimonials from Dr. *Mead*, Dr. *Schomberg*, Dr. *Horselman*, Mr. *Barton*, and many more Gentlemen of great eminence, Mr. *Pyke*, altho' he had bought the Shop &c. as I had engag'd the Business, thought it not adviseable to remove to *Cambridge*, but to let me have the Shop, &c. This as it happen'd prov'd an unfortunate Affair to us both, as I shall hereafter set forth.

I had before I engag'd with Mr. *Pyke*, fitted up a little Shop by *St. Mary's Church*; and the business I had soon got into, discourag'd him from settling, and encourag'd him to let me have the Shop he had bought, upon my own Security. Mr. *Pyke* well knowing my Circumstances could not be impos'd upon; neither did he distrust the suffi-

ciency of my being able to make good my Engagements. Accordingly he sold me the Shop, with Medicines, Utenfils &c. for one-hundred Pounds, for which he took my Bond payable one year after Date; and he gave me Possession, and Mrs. *Dresser* gave back his Lease of the House, and took one from me, and I directly mov'd into the House: I need not inform the Gentlemen of the University, Town or County, what Business and Esteem I soon came into, (but those, who were not Witnesses of my good or bad Fortune;) This I may with certainty say, there was not a College in the whole University, but I had Patients in, especially *Trinity*, *King's*, *St. John's*, *Emanuel* and *Cajus*; the late Master, the *Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Ely's* Favours in employing me, I esteem as an Honour; the chief Gentlemen of the Town and County favour'd me with their Business, and Mr. *Ireland* dying soon after, great part of his Business fell to me.

Thus happily situated amongst Gentlemen of the most extensive Abilities and Goodness, whose favours I greatly experienc'd, and whose humane usage has made lasting impressions of Gratitude; which makes the reverse Treatment from Rusticks, perplex and gaul my Soul, whose insolence and reproach, added to starving Circumstances, who can bear? But to return; in this happy and most agreeable Situation, with daily Instances of encreasing Favours, having as I then thought nothing to fear, and nothing more to hope for, than the lasting continuance of that happy prosperous State I enjoy'd: But to shew the uncertainty of all things here below, while in the midst of all my wish'd
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for happiness ; beheld ! how cruel Fortune unkindly interfer'd.

For as soon as my reception and success had reach'd the Ears of my *London* Lawyer (whom I before spoke of as being concern'd for me in that unhappy dispute with Mr. *S-n-b-n*) He wrote to me, to send him up a Note, payable to him or Order for fifty Pounds value receiv'd, six Months after date ; this Letter gave me some uneasiness, yet I sent him no Answer, as I knew I did not owe him one Farthing, but he at the same time was indebted to me twelve Pound, (as I shall presently make appear) but as I gave him no Answer, he soon sent me a second Letter, with this Addition, that unless by the return of the Post, I sent him such a Note as he requir'd, he'd be the ruin of me and my Family &c. &c. to this likewise I gave no Answer, as I was conscious I owed him nothing ; he in about a fortnights time, sent down a Writ for fifty Pound, which I was arrested for, and sent to *Cambridge-Castle*. This was a most fatal blow at such a time, and made a great Alarm ; People had strange conceptions of my Circumstances, to attempt to settle, and to be liable to be sent to Goal directly, where I lay at a great expence near a Month, before I could get my Liberty ; had it been a just Debt it was in my Power to have paid it directly, and as it was not, I had better to have given twice the Sum than have been sent to Goal : But who would have done so I know not ? I wrote to an Attorney in *London*, to acquaint him of this base Affair, who sent me word I must make an Affidavit of my not owing him ten Pounds, and he'd soon set me at Liberty, and accordingly I did, and He (the Lawyer) was summon'd before a Judge, and begg'd time to give in his Answer

swer, as he had one to invent, which prolong'd my imprisonment; but upon the next Summons I was set at Liberty, and return'd to my Business, some of which I had lost. This Affair cost me seventy Pounds before I could get out of Goal; but that was nothing to my other Losses arising from being confin'd; it rais'd strange Suspicions, and weaken'd the opinion of my Friends, and prov'd a great check to getting more.

As one Misfortune is commonly succeeded by another; *Dr. Bently* was taken Ill of a Pleurisy, a Day or two before I was set at Liberty, who was pleas'd to accept the attendance of a Brother I recommended in my absence; I waited on the Doctor as soon as I had it in my power; *Dr. Bently* was then under the care of *Mr. Professor Plumtree*; I was very much concern'd to find my best Friend so very ill, fearing upon the account of his great Age, it wou'd go very hard with him; and as he had enjoy'd such good Health so many Years, and no great Friend to Physick, he was not so conformable as the Professor and I could have wish'd; but however, he was judiciously treated by *Dr. Plumtree*, and closely attended by myself, who was with him night and day 'till Death depriv'd us of this great good Man. This was another very unlucky Circumstance now I had lost my best Friend, who did not only employ me for himself and Family, but for a great many poor People that the World was not acquainted with: The Charities he did with his right Hand, were not known to his left; his Alms were done in Secret that he might be rewarded openly: This good Gentleman every morning during his Illness, order'd me half a Guinea for my Attendance, and besides his paying me handsomely for Medicines, I had a present

sent of a three Pound-twelve over and above; but these favours were not equal to those I receiv'd from his kind recommendation. The sanction I had, under the Umbrage of this great Man, obtain'd me the Respect and Favours of many: But what cruel misfortunes have rob'd me of all my Hopes, when I have had the greatest Views of well doing? Of all the unlucky incidents of Life, nothing cou'd prove more fatal than the death of *Dr. Bently* in less than a Fortnight after coming out of Goal; and when I had been but a little more than half a Year settled at *Cambridge*, and one month of that in Prison; my great Friend being dead, my interest lessen'd and my Business declin'd; and what prov'd more unfortunate than my being in Goal, I can't help mentioning with the utmost Reluctance (as 'tis so near a Relation) that my Wife cou'd never submit to Misfortunes; but exasperated with the thoughts of being disgrac'd, possess'd with too much Spirit, and too little Patience, which added greatly to my misfortunes, whose noisy insolence and imprudent behaviour made us scandalous, hurt my Reputation, lost my Business, and soon reduc'd us to the utmost distress.

I being advis'd to seek some redress from the Lawyer, who had used me so unjustly and cruelly, I apply'd to Counsellor *Pont*, Recorder of *Cambridge*, who mov'd the Court against him, to shew cause why he sent me to Goal &c, which Mr. *Pont* did, and afterwards proceeded to bring him to Tryal, which he evaded from Term to Term under various excuses and pretences; and one shift was, that his principal Evidence was on Board a Man of War in some distant Station; and by this
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and such like evasions, he got a year and half's Time, which occasion'd me several expensive Journeys to *London*: And after he could put off the Tryal no longer, it was brought on before my *Lord chief Justice Lee*, in *Westminster-Hall*, the sittings after Midsummer Term in the Year 1742.

The nature of this Affair betwixt Mr. *Jones* and myself ought to be explain'd before we proceed to tryal, which was thus: This same Attorney being a Coffee House Acquaintance, when that unhappy difference happen'd betwixt Mr. *S-n-b-n* and myself, which I have before related, went to Mr. *S-n-b-n*, and some others about my business; and as he undertook to take out a Commission of Bankruptcy, and paid half a year's Rent prior to the Commission, and his endeavouring to collect a few Debts &c, brought me in a Demand of fifty Pounds, which demand he brought in under the Statute of Bankruptcy, sign'd my Certificate, and shar'd the same Fate as the rest of my Creditors. After that, he never was concern'd for me upon any account what ever, and consequently had no demand in Law against me; for what he pretended was due, was before the Commission: The Business I had done for him to the amount of twelve Pounds was since, yet as he was something a loser by me, I never demanded the twelve Pounds due to me since the Commission, as I thought in Conscience I ought to make him some return, and all other Persons, who had suffer'd by my being a Bankrupt. I never demanded any Money, which I could have done; but voluntarily made them a Present of what Business I did for them afterwards, though starving at the same Time.

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But to the Tryal; I having in Court prov'd by my Books and Servants my Demand of twelve Pounds; he in defence was to prove his of fifty, and he to give a Sanction to his Action, had procur'd a Note of mine to a Distiller, of whom I bought Spirits, for about three Pounds, which not being sufficient to overballance my Demand of twelve Pounds, he then instead of proving a Demand for fifty, which he had absolutely swore to, or else could not have sent me to Goal, thought proper to declare for fifteen only, with the help of the Note, as he had hired a Rapper out of the Fleet Prison, to swear he saw him lend me twelve Pounds, which with the Note of three he prov'd to overballance my twelve.

My *Lord chief Justice* ask'd him if he had no Note for the twelve Pounds, and told him it seem'd odd that after losing Money by me from the Commission, he should directly lend me more and not take a Note for it: He answer'd as it was before Witness, he did not insist upon a Note. This same honest Attorney had so instructed his Evidence; which to make it the more righteous was his own B-th-r, and who did not only swear to the place and Time, but to the very pieces of Money. O monstrous! that there can be such abandon'd graceless Wretches upon Earth! may the great God that bears witness of what I write, and knows the secrets of all Hearts, never pardon me in this World, but condemn me for ever, if it is not as false as I declare it to be. I never before, nor after the Commission, borrow'd one Farthing of him, more than the fifteen Pounds he paid Mr. *Berkley* my Landlord for half a year's Rent prior to the Commission; and at the very time this wicked B-th-r swore
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he saw him lend me the Money at my House in *Hatton-Garden*, I was then gone with my Wife's Brother to *Sturbitch-Fair*, who was scarcely recover'd of a Fever I attended him in. Good God! if this is the Case, what chance doth a Man stand in a Court where such Evidences are to be hir'd? But what Confusion! what Terror! what Guilt and Tremors were they both in at the time this Evidence was given? not to mention the Favour a Limb of the Law may receive, he got a Verdict with cost of suit &c; and this prov'd my entire Destruction. By this unjust procur'd Verdict, and upon this account I was oblig'd to sell my Shop and Effects, and to quit *Cambridge*; and again to be turn'd a drift with my Family to starve. Wou'd not a link of such cruelties heightned by domestick Contention drive any Man beyond himself? Can it be ask'd why I am poor? Should it not rather be ask'd? Is not this Man starv'd and out of his Senses? But the God in whom I trust, as those Heroes of old answer'd *Nebuchadnezer*, the God whom I serve, and have a stedfast reliance on, is able still to deliver me; but here my sufferings do not end.

The Compassion and Charity of the University were again extended to our relief, and many Gentlemen, especially the present *Master* of *St. John's*, *Emanuel*, the late *Master* of *Peterhouse*, and many others, particularly the *Fellows* of *Trinity-College*, lay me under the greatest sense of gratitude and thankfulness, and I hope no time will wear out those impressions of Gratitude. After those sufferings and a decay of Business; in order to establish me, I wrote a Treatise on intermitting Fevers and Agues, and met with great encouragement from the University, and here I am under great obligati-

obligations to that learned, worthy, compleat, humane Gentleman, Dr. *Zachary Grey*, who having an early acquaintance with my Father, shew'd me great favours and compassion; which I shall always acknowledge with thankfulness.

After these Misfortunes, and many fruitless Endeavours, I left my Wife and Children in Lodgings, and went and paid my Compliments to Mr. *Oversto*, an ingenious Surgeon and Apothecary at *Saffron-Walden*, and offer'd to assist him in any capacity; for I ever us'd my utmost Endeavours to support my Family, which in no distress I ever forsook; and at any time when degraded from being Master, I was content to act as a Servant. Mr. *Oversto* had at that time receiv'd a Damage by a Fall, and was unable to attend Business; which was in the Year 1744: I staid some time with him, and did what business he requir'd, and wou'd willingly apply'd for more but as Mr. *Oversto* had no Children, and only himself and good Mrs. *Oversto*, and being blest with an affluent Fortune, he was not anxious after much business; tho' at first, I was in hopes we should in conjunction have acquir'd a Business that wou'd have been of use to us both; but being more at leisure than I wish'd for, I wrote an Essay upon the good and bad Effects of Tea; the Copy of which I sold, to help to support my Family at *Cambridge*. I hir'd a Horse at *Walden*, to go to *London*, and upon my return to *Cambridge*, I call'd at *Bunting-Ford*, where I met with one Mr. *Reddall*, a very ingenious Surgeon and Apothecary, who with very great Success practis'd Midwifry, being also a great Proficient in that Art. This Mr. *Reddall* treated me with great civility, expressing some concern

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for my many Misfortunes, and invited me to his House, to stay what time I pleas'd, till something else should offer in my Favour; for which I thank'd him, and promis'd (after taken my leave of Mr. *Oversto*) to make him a visit. The next Day I set out for *Cambridge*, but call'd to see my Relations at *Gransden*, and mounting my Horse to go to *Cambridge*, he rose upright, and throwing me, fell upon my Leg; it was not broke, but so bruise'd, and in so much pain that I was oblig'd to stay at *Gransden* six Weeks, at an Expence, besides being prevented going to *Cambridge*, to *Walden* and to *Bunting-ford*, as I had promis'd.

This Accident kept me, with the Horse at *Gransden* six Weeks, before I was able to ride; and as soon as I was, I went to Mr. *Reddall's*, at *Bunting-ford*, and sent the Horse to *Walden*. I staid some time with Mr. *Reddall*, and as he had Business in *London*, I attended his Patients in his Absence; and when Mr. *Reddall* was in Town, he call'd upon my Wife's Brother, and told him, if he, or any of her Relations, would give my Wife her board a little time, he would put me into a Condition soon of maintaining her and my Children: But her good Brother, in order to excuse himself, and the rest of her Relations, was pleas'd to say such unkind and unjust things of me, which prevented Mr. *Reddall*, and I, engaging upon such beneficial Terms as we had agreed to; and so I greatly suffer'd by these unnatural People, that would neither serve me, themselves, nor let other People. Upon Mr. *Reddall's* return, I soon after went again to *Saffron-Walden*, to Mr. *Oversto*, where I had establish'd a good Esteem amongst the principal Persons in that Neighbourhood, who
often

often solicited me to settle there; and if I could not come into measures with Mr. *Oversto*, to enter upon Business for myself; which I never intended, but propos'd going to fix at *Thaxstead*. But soon after my return to *Walden*, and while I was attending Business for Mr. *Oversto*, the Man of whom I hir'd the Horse, arrested me for about fifty-Shillings; and I was kept in Custody, a Day and a Night under the Care of two Bailiffs, sufficiently expos'd to the whole Town and Country; and then my Friend Mr. *Oversto* was so kind as to release me. This Man who arrested me, was Mr. *Oversto*'s Tenant, and ow'd Mr. *Oversto* money at the same time, and I should have thought dared not have arrested me, without first acquainting him, and obtaining leave, which I have too much reason to suspect was the Case: This affair so blasted me, that I laid aside all thoughts of staying on that side the Country. I shan't take upon myself to say what was the intention of my being arrested by Mr. *Oversto*'s Tenant, but shall submit that to the Determination of others, as I was invited to settle at *Walden*, &c.

My Friend Mr. *Reddall*, of *Bunting-ford*, hearing of this Usage, sent a Man and Horse, with an invitation for me to come and stay with him, till something more advantageous should offer; which I accepted, and parted with Mr. *Oversto* in good Friendship, who very handsomely paid me for the time I was with him, for which I heartily thank'd him. I staid some months with Mr. *Reddall*, who us'd me with all the Compassion and good Nature I could wish for, and I, in return, did my best for him and his Patients; and had not those unkind People in *London*, weaken'd the good

Opinion he had of me, he propos'd covenanting in an advantageous manner for us both, and I was to have taken the physical Practice upon myself, and he the Midwifry and Surgery, both of which he had a great share off; however, this was prevented: I heartily thank him for his Favours and own myself under great Obligations for them, and he will always not only have my thankful Acknowledgements, but my best wishes, as long as we both are inhabitants upon Earth.

I went again to *London* and waited on Dr. *Mead* and acquainted him with what Misfortunes I had met with, and ask'd him, if he would please to recommend me any where abroad; he told me he would willingly, but thought it was too late in Life, for me to go into another Climate to die; and said there were many Apothecaries of great Business, that would be glad of my Assistance, and he would have me enquire for such, and he would recommend me.

I then went to Mr *Cecil*, an Apothecary of good Esteem, in *Bloomsbury-Square*, and told him I had been to wait on Dr. *Mead*, and what the Doctor advis'd me to; Mr. *Cecil* was so kind as to recommend me to Mr. *Braley*, a Surgeon and Apothecary, at *Mitcham*: I told Mr. *Cecil* (who also waited on Dr. *Mead* in my behalf) that I had some thoughts of going to *Thaxstead* in *Essex*, where I was invited to; but my present unhappy Circumstances would not permit me. He was so kind as to use his Endeavours, with the Assistance of Mr. *Davey*, an Apothecary in new *North-Street*, to raise me a small Sum to enable me to go to *Thaxstead*; and while I was at Mr. *Braley*'s, he collected me about six or seven Pounds, for which I am
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under the most grateful Obligations, to my worthy Friends Mr. *Cecil* and Mr. *Davey*. By this time my poor unhappy temper'd Wife, finding Favours upon the decline at *Cambridge*; thought proper, unknown to me, to send two of my Children, one about seven, and the other about five years of Age, to my Sister at *Gransden*, and order'd the Messenger to leave them, whether she was willing or not: My Sister mov'd with Compassion, took my two poor forsaken Boys in, (who were left crying amongst Strangers) and kept them all Winter, which was a very great hardship upon my Sister, as she could not afford it. My Sister sent me a Letter of what my Wife had done, and desir'd as soon as possible, I would send for them away, or send something for their support; for she had sent to *Cambridge* to my Wife, who went to *London* the next Day after she had sent the Children to her. My good Lady's journey to *London* was as much a secret to me as her sending my Children to my Sister's: And after I knew she was in *London*, her pious old Mother secreted her for above six Months, before I could find her out. This poor unhappy temper'd Woman, always thought it her Duty, or at least it was her Inclination, to follow the dictates of her Mother, and two Sisters in *Crutched-Fryars*, who instead of giving her good Advice, have all along encourag'd her to act in opposition to the duty of a Wife, and happiness of an Husband. Neither her expectations from her Brother, nor his good Councils, have been of any Benefit to her and her Family, which altogether have contributed to my Miseries. For her Relations, in order to excuse my Wife, would always blame and use me Ill; and she out of Pride to excuse them, from not being able, or

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willing to assist me, used to blame and reproach me in such a false Manner, as to make all my Friends my Foes.

So many Instances of this kind I cou'd produce, as would heighten Aggravations already too great: I shall only say my Fortune of all kinds far exceeds any I ever read, or heard of; Job's Tryals were neither comparable nor so lasting as mine. Some young Fellows if they do inadvertently marry, and chance to have no Fortune with their Wives, yet they often amply make it up by a sweetness of Temper, and affectionate Behaviour; always studying the happiness and interest of their Husbands; without which there can be very little real Felicity for either; but they ought both to endeavour the mutual Happiness of each, whereby they may make the most distress'd Circumstances tolerable, and not as some do, vilify, and reproach, insult, and tyrannise, ever uneasy, ever dissatisfied, perpetually destroying each others Peace, and serenity of Mind, and aggravating each other's Distress; and what a shocking Folly and Madness is it, when a Wife, to gratify a vile Spirit, will stick at nothing, be it ever so base and false, to vilify and destroy the reputation of her Husband, tho' she knows his, her own and Childrens Bread depend upon it? But where Tempers are not so agreeable as could be wish'd for, those Evils are in some Degree alleviated by Money. And some others, whose hard Fortune it is to miss of both good Tempers and Money, frequently have great Favours and helps from their Wife's Relations, who do not only relieve them when distress'd, but will forward and promote their Interest: Some Men have made their Fortunes by marrying into Families, who have made it their delight to recom-

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mend and promote them: But where a Man with no Fortune of his own, gets none with his Wife, and is without the affectionate Friendship he might reasonable hope for, both from her, and her Relations; nay instead of such Advantages, finds them act upon opposite Principles, and quite repugnant to his Interest; where he has a large Family to support, towards which, all his Endeavours are by cruelty, and oppression, render'd unsuccessful, and in the decline of Life is reduc'd to want the common Comforts and Support thereof; which distresses, besides the insolence and disrespect from abroad, are heighten'd by domestick Strife, Noise and Contention; good God! where shall we meet with a Job who can bear it? I endeavour to do justice to all, by whom I have suffer'd, by relating their Friendship, as well as their Cruelties; so I shall do justice to a Wife, no Man can more regard. What I have said about her, is with the utmost regret; yet I could not clear up some reproach, and suspicion, without owning she is not blest with the best of Tempers; she is a very genteel, well behav'd Woman to every one but her Husband; she is certainly a notable, clean, industrious Woman; and was her Temper agreeable to her Person, she would make a Husband compleatly happy; and if after thirty-one Years, she should alter and behave in a mild affectionate Manner, nothing could be more pleasing, but I have hop'd for this so long, that I have but little Hope left.

She has one Sister, who is both an agreeable Woman, and a dutiful affectionate Wife, who agreeable to Scripture, *forsook Father and Mother and cleav'd to her Husband, and they two became one Flesh*, one Heart and one Mind; and
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may they always continue so to do for their own Comfort, and the Happiness of their Children; tho' this good Woman suffer'd sometime the Displeasure of her pious Parents for adhering to the Duty of a Wife, and a Mother. But to return; I staid at *Mitcham* two or three months; all the time Mr. *Braley* had occasion for my Assistance, for which he very handsomely rewarded me. During the time I was at *Mitcham*, Mr. *Cecil* and Mr. *Davey*, collected me about six Pounds, as I before mention'd, with a List of my Benefactors, to whom I return my thanks; Mr. *Cecil* went with me to Dr. *Mead*, who said, it was a very small Sum for a Man to set off with amongst Strangers; and the Doctor was so good as to renew his Favours, by giving me a Guinea, with his good wishes, and the following Recommendation.

I have known Mr. *Simon Mason*, *Apothecary*, many Years, and have always found him to be an honest, industrious Man, and well qualified for his Business.

February the 7th. 1746,7.

} *R. Mead.*
 } *M. Schomberg.*

As I had been long known to Dr. *Schomberg*, I also waited on him, who readily sign'd my Recommendation, treated me with great civility, and made me a handsome Present; he, amongst my other Friends has a just Claim to my Gratitude.

As Dr. *Mead* thought the Sum which my Friends had rais'd me too little to make any attempts in going to *Thaxstead* upon my own footing; I went to see my two naked Boys at my Sister's,
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and carried them Cloaths and other Necessaries: They were highly rejoic'd to see me, which joy was too soon turn'd to grief, for fear of my leaving them. Such as have no Children, and even those that have, and have not the same Compassion for them, can't here share my Distress, for I at all times and places ever had the greatest Affection and Concern for my Family, whom I never forsook, but ever strove in all conditions of Life, to do my utmost for them; whereas, many who have not the same care and love for their Families, wou'd have run from, and left them to shift for themselves, but this was never in my Power to do, however requited for it.

I won't say (after that I was admitted to a conference with my Lady at her Sister *Cheshire's* upon *Tower-Hill*,) what her behaviour was to me, I leave that to her Sister; and after I was permitted to know where she lodg'd, and went to wait on her, I shall be silent in the reception I met with; neither need I say I was oblig'd to take a Lodging for myself, not being permitted to be with her, for fear of disobliging her pious Relations. This was after my return from my two melancholly Boys, whom I had cloath'd and paid something towards their board; and when I came to Town, I was so much reduc'd, that I had not above ten Shillings to seek my Fortune with, and my good Sister *Winsmore's* Husband being dead, she had left of business and I had no place of refuge.

I had almost forgot to mention after I came from Mr. *Reddall's* at *Bunting-ford*, that I went to see my most stedfast, valuable Friend, and that generous hospitable Gentleman Mr. *John Cross*, Rector of *Long-stow* in *Cambridgeshire*, whom I knew I should

should greatly anger, was I to speak of half the particulars of his Goodness, with whom I liv'd some time, and was entertain'd with the utmost humanity and compassion, besides many other proofs of his lasting Goodness, by some known to this day, and my silent Gratitude is only known to the Searcher of Hearts. After my return to *London*, I lodg'd upon *Tower-Hill*, and receiv'd some friendships from my Brother-in-law Mr. *Cheshire*, which I gratefully regard, who also recommended me to some practice, and where I contracted an Acquaintance with many Gentlemen of the Army, from whom I receiv'd more Acts of Friendship, than I could have expected; but the ill nature and malice of my good Father-in-law, and his Consort &c, knowing I was pretty often at his Son *Cheshire's*, and finding I pick'd up a small, tho' an uncomfortable living, insisted that his Son *Cheshire* should forbid me coming to his House, which Mr. *Cheshire* was forc'd unwillingly to comply with: Such was the malice of this good Father-in-law, that I was forc'd to shift my Quarters, to the *Stone-Kitchen* in the *Tower*, where I was most kindly treated: But still this was an unhappy settl'd Life; I, in one Lodging, my good Wife, in another, and my Children, at the Parish; altogether almost depriv'd me of my Senses, for my little narrow Way of Business was scarcely sufficient to keep me in a State of Existence, much less to pay for my Childrens Board; and my Wife's Relations, not being willing to contribute one Farthing to save them from the Parish. My Sister was oblig'd to send them to the Parish they belong'd to at *Cambridge*, who took them and put them to Board, where they were well taken care of, for which I am very thankful.

thankful. This Circumstance of sending my Children to the Parish, (however it might sit upon the Breast of my Wife) gave me the utmost concern; I can't think it was matter of Satisfaction to her, what ever it was to some of her unkind Relations; and this is a Paradox to me, that she can justify the cruelty of her Relations to her own Children: I think if they had never so great a dislike to me, as my Wife is, their Relation, upon her account, the poor innocent Children, should not have been excluded from the tender Compassion of a Parent. But my two Boys being upon the Parish, was the Occasion of my being admitted to an Audience with my Lady, when I propos'd taking a little House at *Mile-End*, to be near my Acquaintance in the *Tower*, and not far from my Wife's kind Relations, and to send for my Children, which accordingly I did.

About this time, it being in the Year 1747, the Distemper amongst the horn'd Cattle was very predominant: I made a strict Application to consider the Nature of this mortal Illness, and the method of treating it; and found it to be a contagious inflammatory Disorder, most resembling the human Species of a Pleurisy, attended by different Symptoms, till a Crisis was form'd to throw off the febrile Cause by purging, which matter being of so virulent, and corrosive a Nature, that it did not only rob the Gutts of their Mucus, but excoriated them, which ulcerated and turn'd to a Mortification, and terminated in Death. I had brought my notions to such a Certainty by frequent observation and reflection, that I thought, I had not only discover'd the Nature of this Disorder, but an effectual Way of treating it, and I advertis'd to

cure this Distemper for twenty Shillings per Cow, or nothing.

I was first employ'd by Mr. *Buckton*, a great Cow-keeper near *Islington*, who had lost some hundreds of Cows, and not above one in ten got thro' the Distemper; I covenanted with him and cur'd either fourteen or fifteen out of twenty, which recommended me into great practice of that kind; and I had more Success than any Person that had attempted to cure them: I really thought I should have acquir'd a certain and effectual method of curing them, and offer'd proposals to some great Men to give me a tryal by such a Number, and represented in some measure the Nature of the Illness, and what Success I had met with, and how it ought to be treated, but my obscurity in life gain'd me no notice nor encouragement, and then I dropt this practice.

The next thing offer'd, was an Advertisement for a Man who understood the Business of an Apothecary, and was capable of visiting Patients, who for further information was to apply to Mr. *Smith*, Chymist at *Smithfield-Bars*; this Mr. *Smith*, when I liv'd in *Hatton-Garden*, was Journeyman to Mr. *Pead*, a Chymist, the very next Door to me; when I went to Mr. *Smith*, to enquire after this Place, he was exceeding glad to see me, and did not think I wanted it for myself; but when I told him that the many cruel and unfortunate Events of my Life had reduc'd me, and that it was for myself I apply'd, and beg'd his Friendship in securing the Place for me; this he readily promis'd me, and accordingly did, which brought me to *Market-Harborough* in *Leicestershire*, February the 18th, 1747-8.

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I was directed by Mr *Smith* to one Mr *B-r-n* a Surgeon and Apothecary of that Town, whom I sent for to the Swan; He told me he was going to succeed an Apothecary at *Leicester*, and wanted a Person qualified to take care of his Shop and Business at *Harborough*, and I was recommended by Mr. *Smith* as such; I answer'd, I had been known some Years to Mr *Smith* when I was in a preferable Situation; he said he hop'd I should meet with things to my Satisfaction, and he was much better pleased that Mr. *Smith* had sent him a Person of some Years, than a young Man, as I shou'd be more capable, and more satisfactory to his Friends: He ask'd me if I went to the Meeting, I told him, no; he said he was sorry for that, as most of his Patients belonging to that Shop did; he had no other objection, than he fear'd that unless I went to the Meeting, we should lose some of the Business, I reply'd, rather than we should lose the Business, I would go to the Meeting till I had establish'd myself amongst them, and the next Day we came to an Agreement, and he was to give me half a Guinea a Week, with board, washing, and lodging &c, which Agreement we both sign'd

In the evening came Mr. *Johnson* the dissenting Minister, a very good sort of a Gentleman, who was neither ignorant, nor reserv'd enough to please some of the rigid ones; I told Mr. *Johnson* at the same time I was inform'd by Mr. *B-n* that unless I went to the Meeting we should lose most of our Business, that I was really bred up to the Church of England, which worship I have always adher'd to; and I think I ought not to deceive you, either by telling you I am a Dissenter, or by my going to the Meeting; he said I did very right to
speak

speak so candidly, and he should have the better opinion of me; he believed some Persons would have lik'd me better, was I of the same way of thinking with them, but for his part, it wou'd make no Difference, and honestly said, he would not have me upon any view of Interest go to the Meeting, tho' my not doing it, would be an hindrance to our Business; I told him as I was a perfect Stranger and came to serve Mr. *B-n*, I thought it at present most adviseable to establish myself in the good Esteem of those I was to be employ'd by, and with his leave I shou'd come and behave decently amongst them, and if I lik'd their way of serving God better than the Church of England, I should continue, otherwise he'd excuse me if I return'd to the Church; he said every Man ought to follow the dictates of his own Conscience; accordingly I attended their Meeting, and sometimes when out of Town, I went to Church, and thought I did right to make some set of People my Friends, who shew'd me respect and civility.

I had not acted in the capacity of a Journeyman more than two months, before my new Master (discovering my general reception and approbation) offer'd me Partnership, and we drew up an agreement for that Purpose, by which agreement his Attorney well knows I cou'd have taken great Advantage of, had I been unjustly inclin'd: Soon after this engagement, by the advice of his Friends, he offer'd me the Shop and Business, and to let me the House at the same Rent, and for the same time he had to come; we agreed and he sold me the Shop, Medicines, Druggs, and Utenfils, and let me the House, and once more I was Master for myself. It seems he had been treating with an Apothecary of the
same

same Town before I was sent for, and they cou'd not agree; finding I had got the Shop and Business, and was likely to have more, it occasion'd the foul Play as I shall relate as it falls in Turn.

I agreed with this same Apothecary for the Shop and some Household-Goods; to the amount of one hundred Pounds, to be paid at four equal distinct payments, the first to be paid the *Harborough* Fair following, (this being made in *May* 1748,) and the other three payments were all to be paid in about a Year and half; for which purpose, Articles were made, which we executed, and his Attorney had made them with this Proviso, that upon five days default after the time fix't for payment of the first, or any other payments, the contract was to be void, and he should have it in his Power, to re'enter, seize, carry away, and dispose of the Effects, 'till he was paid the remaining part of what was due. This was a pretty hard engagement, yet from the Business I had, and the good Prospect of more, I was under no apprehensions of not making good my payments, and this good Prospect induc'd me once more to send for my Wife and Children. After they came, we liv'd very comfortably for about six Weeks, when she began to behave in such an insolent, noisy, tyrannical manner, as no one can conceive, which did me a great Prejudice, but proved lucky for Mr. C--s to renew his application in behalf of his Son, for he well knew that unless some advantages could be gain'd by these imprudences, I should soon make good my Purchase, and get into more Business than was consistent with their Interests; then this worthy conscientious Brother of mine, renew'd the Attack, and offer'd much more Money for the Shop than I had agreed for, and to pay
it

it all down, in case he cou'd disengage himself from the agreement made with me; this was a strong Temptation to a Man who wanted the Money to pay for the Shop he had bought: Added to these, our domestick Contentions, which he thought would be a great check to the Business I had; and it was, in all probability, these considerations, with the Money paid down, which occasion'd Mr. B--n to listen to the new Proposals of Mr. C--s; and then, ways and means were consulted, how to dispossess me, and to get the Goods again; all this I knew nothing of, but I was taking the utmost pains to make good my first payment, by a strict assiduity in Business. When an unlucky Circumstance happening, did me hurt with some of my Patients, and gave them an handle to side with Mr. B--n to use me as he did.

One Sunday Mr. *Bigland* of *Peterborough*, came to the three Crowns at *Harborough*, and ask'd Mr. *Sollers* if I did not live there; he told him yes; Mr. *Bigland* then desir'd he'd send for me; Mr. *Sollers* answer'd he'd send for me, if he pleas'd, but he was sure I would not come to a publick-House of a Sunday; why so, reply'd Mr. *Bigland*, why don't you know he's a Dissenter, and they won't come out of a Sunday; I saw him go by since you have been here, from the Meeting; which made the Gentleman in a Passion, and order'd directly I might be sent for, and said I was no Dissenter, and would come if they told me his Name; I was sent for, and went to wait on Mr. *Bigland*, who made such a Discovery that I was from that very time look'd upon as a false Brother.

Harborough Fair being come, I saw Mr. B--n and told him the first payment would be due in a few Days, but if he wanted any Money, I could
then

then help him to some, and if he would give me an order, I would pay Mr. *Talbot* ten Pounds for rent, and the little more that was wanting, I would pay within the time, to make up the first payment. He said, no; he should be at *Harborough* again in about a Week, and he with some of his Friends would meet me, and settle: Mr. *Marston*, who was one in company, promis'd to give us the Night fix'd upon, a fat Pig for supper, which was agreed to, and we all consented to meet at the time appointed at that very House; little distrusting what was contriving for my destruction. The time fix'd being come, I went to meet according to promise, but neither my Gentleman, nor any of his Friends were there, no Pig, nor any sign of a Supper; I ask'd the Landlord after Mr. *B--n* and he had heard nothing of him, nor the fat Pig. I return'd, imagining some Business might have prevented his coming, never mistrusting what was in agitation.

About a Week after the time appointed, (being five Days) and five Days only over and above the twelve, which he staid away on purpose to take the advantage of this default, when the default was plainly of his own making, and absolutely contrary to my inclination, and express'd appointment; he then came and brought two Bailiffs with him, whom he put into Possession; I was at the same Time gone to *Farndon*, (about one Mile from *Harborough*,) and upon my return home, met a Messenger, who told me what was done, and to prevent his arresting me, I went to little *Bowden*, (it being out of that County,) fearing that since he had so treacherously acted by me, he would stick at nothing to compleat his cruelty. I sent

to Mr. *Marston*, to tell Mr. *B--n* I desir'd to speak with him before any thing was done, which he refus'd, and never came to me. The next Day Mr. *Marston* went with me to his Attorney, to talk with him about this Affair, and at last, we concluded to meet on Sunday to see if this Matter could be compromis'd. The Attorney promis'd the Goods should remain unremov'd upon the Premises, till the result of this Meeting: My Friend Mr. *Marston*, and I, took our leaves of this good Gentleman, relying upon his Fidelity, and I return'd to little *Bowden*; but on Saturday Night in violation of that promise, about eleven, a Person came to tell me Mr. *B--n* with his Assistants was pulling down, and carrying away, both the Shop and Household-goods, and had, at Midnight pull'd my Children out of Bed and laid them upon the Floor without a Rag to cover them, and had taken every individual thing and had left none of them a Bed to lie on.

Can it be thought in a Christian Country, any thing so base, so cruel and barbarous, would be transacted after so many pretensions of Friendship by one who pitied me, on the Account he had receiv'd of my former Sufferings from cruelty and oppression? Was he not convinc'd of my Diligence and Integrity? Had he discover'd any thing to have rais'd a Suspicion of my Fidelity, he would have been more excusable? But the Recommendation he had from Mr. *Smith*, and the Character he receiv'd in answer to a Letter, he sent unknown to me, to Dr. *Mead*, which he shew'd to many Persons in *Harborough*; and declar'd at the same Time he would have given an hundred Pounds for the same Character, from so great a Man;

Man; I say, had I in any Degree forfeited these Testimonials, then he might have had a greater Plea for his Cruelties; but such continued Misfortunes as these, sometimes incline me to think that all events are determin'd by an irresistible Fate.

To return; we were stript and nothing left but bare Walls, yet I thought proper to keep Possession, as a Gentleman to whom I apply'd, advis'd; and told me he'd make him glad to bring every thing back again, and make me Satisfaction for such illegal Practice, for he did not only take those things I had bought of him, but many more my Family had brought, and others I had bought; besides many valuable Medicines I had made, and added to Stock. But I being thus reduc'd in a strange Place, was oblig'd (without redress) to submit to these barbarities.

After several delusive attempts, by sending false messuages for me, first to one Place, and my Wife to another, in order to take Possession and lock us into the Street; he by the Advice of some ruling Puritans, apply'd to a Justice in regard to my settlement, tho' I was absolutely a Parishioner by hiring upwards of ten Pounds per Year; however, a Warrant was granted, and without time or notice I was hurried before a Justice, about fifteen Miles distant, escorted by a Guard, as if I had been taken up for a Highway-man, and when I came before his Worship, I gave him such an Account, and produc'd my Contract for rent, and shew'd him my Credentials from Dr. *Mead*, and Dr. *Schomberg*, that I receiv'd better usage then they desir'd; and they could that time meet with no great hopes of obtaining their End. But soon a second Application was made by a worthy Gentle-

man, who in regard to his Memory I shall say was the good Mr. *David Kidney*: He with some more leading Saints, got me again before his Worship; and twice more in obedience to Warrants, I was had before a Justice, in the midst of Winter, about fifteen Miles; who at last could do nothing to serve his good Friends. They afterwards told me, I should oblige the Parish by giving them a Certificate; which I accordingly did, and left the dispute betwixt *B--n* and myself, to arbitration: Mr. *Harper* allow'd me a year's Rent and seven Pounds, and for peace sake, I quitted the Premises, and gave him Possession, to take in the Person who had supplanted me; but had it been in my Power, to have brought this Affair before a Judge and Jury, my Antagonist and false Friend must have paid smart for his deceit and cruelty.

After this, I took a little House, but had neither House-hold nor Shop-Goods to put into it; I being desir'd by some Friends, who had employ'd me to continue amongst them, and altho' the Person had got the Shop by such unfair proceedings, I retain'd some Business and got some few Shop-Goods, and wrote to Mr. *Sawtell*, an Apothecary in *London*, who directly sent me a Quantity of all Sorts of useful Druggs and Medicines, for which I shall ever own my Gratitude. By this supply I got more Business, but my Practice was chiefly amongst Incurables, or at least what had been so with others; and begging Pardon of my judicious Brethren of *Harborough*, I say, I have cur'd Patients after every one of them have fail'd; and I defie them all to produce one Instance of their curing any one after me, and was I to declare what
success

success I have had since I have been in this Country about five Years, it will look like boasting; but I desire if they can find out among a number of three or four hundred People, that have been under my care, that more than thirty have died, or gone away uncur'd; or if any one of them have cur'd one after me, where I had a fair chance.

Among my difficult Patients, I beg leave (in regard to a Gentleman from *London*, that did me a Favour) to mention Mr. *Freeman* of *Lutterworth*, who had been a long time afflicted with a nervous disorder, and had apply'd to several, both in *London*, and in the *Country*, and at a great expence to no purpose; whom afterwards I soon cur'd. This same Gentleman had a Relation in *London*, whose care Mr. *Freeman* (some little time before) had been under, and seeing him so well recover'd, he ask'd him who had cur'd him; he reply'd, it was me, and said how hardly I had been used, and how greatly I was reduc'd, yet he believed, could I meet with a Friend to assist me with some Medicines, I should still come into Business.

This same Apothecary came in a Day or two, with Mr. *Freeman* to *Harborough*, and call'd upon me, and ask'd me if I wanted any thing in his way, and he would readily supply me: I told him I had occasion enough, but my present Circumstances were such, that I could not desire him to give me credit, as I fear'd much, whether I should ever be able to pay him; he answer'd, he knew my Circumstances before he came, and found I had been ill used, and deserving of encouragement, which he came to give me; and said Mr. *Freeman* had spoke very handsomely of me and sent him to me, and he desired I would give him an account of what I wanted

wanted, and he shou'd send me the Goods the week following; tho' he told me, a certain Apothecary (who had been instrumental in getting me out of the other Shop) had said all he could to dissuade him from sending me any thing; which he look'd upon as malice, and should not regard him; he accordingly, the next Week, sent me as many Goods as I wanted, and exceeding good; this was in March 1749.

The good Apothecaries of *Harborough*, whose Friendship and judgment I equally esteem, and are equally surprising; seeing I had got a supply of Medicines, and was likely to get into Business; knowing I had a Bond in Mr. *Hall's* Hands, a Druggist in *London*, (due for Medicines when I was last demolish'd at *Cambridge*) for fourteen Pounds, took the pains to write Mr. *Hall* word, that I was settled at *Harborough* in good Business, and lately had a supply of Medicines &c. from *London*, and now was his time to be paid: Upon this information, Mr. *Hall* taking it ill, I had Medicines of any one else; (tho' he at the same time would not trust me for any) directly arrested me, and sent me to *Leicester-Goal*, which answer'd my kind brethren's desire; this being two or three Days before the new Fair, that it might the more effectually be spread about the Country: In *Leicester-Goal* I was confin'd about two Months, till Mr. *Hall* was fully satisfy'd about the malicious Representations, and nature of the whole Affair, when he order'd me out of Custody.

The Friendship I met with from Strangers while I was in Goal, I ought never to forget; and what introduc'd me so much to their Compassion, was, there happen'd at that time a very malignant Fever in the Prison,

Prison, that was very fatal in many other Prisons in this Kingdom at the very same Time: The next Day after my admission, I went to see the Persons that were afflicted with this Illness, and told Mr. *Lambert*, the Goal-Keeper, if he would give me leave, I would soon recover those that were ill, and prevent it spreading; Mr. *Lambert* readily agreeing to it, I quickly clear'd the Goal of an Illness, which had made such a noise in the Town and Country, and made People fearful of coming near it; nay, this illness happening at the Assizes, the Judge was afraid to try the Felons, till I had certified to his Lordship, that the Goal was intirely free'd from the Illness.

My Practice being so successful in Goal, it brought me some Patients out of the Town, and raised me the Compassion and Benevolence of several Gentlemen; for which I am in duty bound to be thankful to Mr. *Recorder Wright*, Mr. *Wynstanly*, Mr. *Franks*, Mr. *Pine*, Mr. *Walter Crompton*, with the Benevolence of Mr. *Alderman Lee*, and I should be ungenerous to forget the genteel behaviour of Mr. *Lambert*; and to all I own myself under great Obligations.

By my *Harborough* Friends, my Landlord was sent for whilst I was in Goal, in order to compleat my Destruction, to seize for his Rent, when only one Quarter was due, for which he seiz'd, and was paid; another Quarter would about a fortnight more become due, for which he staid, and seiz'd also; and as soon as I came out, I paid that too: These were comfortable additions to my confinement and loss of Business; every contrivance was put in execution to destroy me, and when I return'd to starving without ever a Bed to lie on, for I solemnly declare it,
that

that we all lay upon a Matt, without a Bed for near two Years, how many cold winter Days and Nights, have we sat without Fire and Candle, and often not able to get more than a penny Loaf among four of us, for a whole Day's support, with a draught of Water.

In this miserable Condition, have I spent many days and nights, in a merciless Place, almost drove to despair, and these Circumstances aggravated with noise, insolence, and contention; how often have I wish'd somebody would send me to Goal! there I thought I should have the Goal-allowance in Peace, and if my poor Children had been sent to the Parish, they would have fared much better.

Notwithstanding all these Hardships, as I had fix'd a good reputation in Practice, I was in hopes of seeing better times; and in order to stem this torrent of Persecution, by the advice of a Gentleman, I hir'd a House of one *Smith*, a Baker, for which I covenanted for ten Pounds a Year, and gave him earnest for the same House before Witneis, which we spent as such; and as my Circumstances were low, he let it me upon paying the first half year's-Rent down, when taking possession. This contract being known, set my Adversaries again to work, and *Smith* presently was threatned in case he let me have his House, one Apothecary would turn him off, and such an Inn he should not serve with Bread &c. that the poor Baker at all events, must not let me have the House, but he was oblig'd to let it to another Person, whom he put in possession; and these Persons who had insisted upon his not letting me have the House, promised to indemnify him in case I should demand my contract. I being disappointed of the House, and wore out with cruelty
and

and oppression, and almost starv'd, I made application to teach the Free-School then vacant; but by some righteous good Gentlemen, that also was deny'd me, and oblig'd me to leave *Harborough*; and upon the death of Mr. *Ireland*, I, by the better sort of People was invited to come to *Wilbarston*, with great assurances of Friendship and Business; and to this Town of *Wilbarston*, I came in November, 1751; but thought it most adviseable to leave my Wife at *Harborough*, almost a Year, at a great expence, in order so to establish myself, as not to suffer by any imprudence she might commit: One Day I was relating the disappointments I met with from *Smith* (which oblig'd me to leave *Harborough* just as the small-pox broke out, and I was likely to come into good Business) to Mr. *Dexter*, whom I by chance met with at Mr. *Parker's*; he was of opinion, that if I could prove my contract, and if according to that contract, I made a tender of five Pounds upon the Day fixt, and demanded Possession, *Smith* would be glad to give it to me, or make me some satisfaction; which I approv'd, and was determin'd it should be done, and accordingly a tender was made, and possession demanded, which *Smith* refus'd, calling me poor beggarly Dog, and set me at defiance. &c.

This gave *Smith* some uneasiness, notwithstanding some had promised to indemnify him, which brought him over, with his neighbour S. N--t, in order to compromise this affair, and we shou'd have done it much better for us both, had his Friend agreed to it, as Mr. *Green* propos'd, that *Smith* shou'd give me five Guineas, and pay my Attorney, and give each other an acquittance; which I would have agreed to, but *Smith's* Friend took him away; I was bid to do my worst; and I by advice brought my

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Action

Action, and *Smith*, thinking as I was poor, I must drop it, oblig'd me to proceed in order for Tryal, which I did by the kind assistance of some Friends, who desire not to be mention'd; and before the Tryal, which was last march was twelve-months, my material Evidence was making a visit, and could not be met with, to avoid being subpœne'd; which put off our Tryal for that Assizes: This contrivance to evade coming to Tryal, did not fully answer their designs; but in order to take an advantage of not trying the Cause, put out of my power to try, by sending my Evidence out of the way; yet they were so good to move in order to get me sent to Goal, and had done it too, had not I immediately sent up Affidavits to prove their sending my Evidence out of the way; very righteous indeed! After all this treatment, I was obliged to wait till the summer Assizes following, when care was taken, to subpœna this Evidence in time; but before the Assizes, they thought proper to apply for Terms, and I, well remembering how greatly I had suffer'd before, by a false witness; it gave me a mean opinion of trusting to such uncertain events: And in obedience to some Gentlemen who wish'd me well, I left it to reference, and my Referee, after I had given him a power to act, told me he should insist upon my paying a small demand to his Relation, and that I should give him a discharge for mine, and was in a great Passion; from such a Friend, I could have but small hopes.

But the two Arbitrators not agreeing, they fix'd upon a third, who absolutely advised me to hire the House; and when *Smith* first began to play loose, he blam'd him, complaining all along of the illegality of their Proceedings, and what Damages I ought to have; and

was

was it left to him, I shou'd have too. But good Lord! how soon we frail Creatures, may alter our Opinions; for after it was solely left to him, I had twelve Pounds allow'd me, instead of an hundred, and I was to pay my Attorney out of that; and instead of having great satisfaction made me, I, and my Friends with one expence or other, are better than thirty Pounds out of Pocket; and I don't doubt but it cost him above twice the Sum; and those Persons who prompted him on to distress me, got their ends by driving me from *Harborough*, yet they were at no part of the expence, for *Smith* was at the whole.

This Law-suit in my little Business here, is as hard upon me, as the Bankruptcy was in *London*; for besides the Expence, loss of time and Business, I am working out Debts, which I contracted to carry on this Law-suit, whereby I am reduc'd to starving. Added to these great Misfortunes, I brought my Wife and Children to *Wilbarston*, little better than a Year since, whose imprudent conduct being the same as else where, I have lost most of my Business, and am reduc'd in a merciless Place, to the greatest distress, where I have none to help me: I should be guilty of the greatest ingratitude, did I not with thankfulness acknowledge the goodness of a valuable Friend lately deceas'd, whose Favours and good intentions, I shall always retain a grateful remembrance of; and am heartily sorry for his death; and the more so, because some little incidents just before happen'd, to lessen his Friendship.

I am in duty bound most particularly to acknowledge the many Favours I have received from that worthy Gentleman, *Thomas Medlycott Esq*; who has treated me with great compassion and humanity, which very much softens the rough usage, I met

with from some; and the countenance he is pleas'd to shew me, gives me that sanction which makes others more inclin'd, from his great Example, to shew me civility and respect. The Character the late Dr. *Wallis* was pleas'd to give of me to Mr. *Medlycott*, I shall leave for that Gentleman to answer, being too strong for me to relate myself. As for some I live amongst, what Business I do for them, if I get no Money of them, I think myself well off if I am only abus'd, and not beat into the Bargain; and was I not under the umbrage of this good Gentleman, I should not be able to bear up against such abuse, and insolence. I hope, tho' some pains have been taken to rob me of his Favours, and Protection, none will succeed to deprive me of his Compassion and Friendship, which can only encourage me to strive even against hope.

Some false Brothers, who still think me too near them, are as assiduous to prevent my falling under the Cognizance of some very worthy good Families, and are too forward in saying ill-natur'd, unkind things, to asperse me, which I hope time will remove, and obtain me their Favours, when the truths, I impartially state, come to be known.

And farther to satisfy that Gentleman, who is surpris'd, that I should be in such Distress at this Time of Life, I shall after relating the many cruel and unfortunate Events of my Life, beg leave to inform the Reader, what (ever since I have acted for myself,) has been my Practice; which is, when I am sent for to a Patient, I first endeavour to the utmost of my Power to inform myself of the true nature of the Illness, and the Symptoms which attend, and which way Nature indicates for relief, and to act in consort with those indications;

tions; consider well the difference of Age, Sex, and Constitutions; and after these observations, with some few reflections, I give such Medicines as are most likely to be successful, and not to be too much in a hurry. If my Discoveries are not quite satisfactory, (but in chronic cases especially) I wait till I can acquire a more certain Knowledge of the Illness, and to give no other, nor no more Medicines, than what I really think will be serviceable, and are absolutely wanted; and never prolong an illness, but to hasten a cure as fast as is consistent with safety: And as soon as I think my Patient out of Danger, I then abate in my Doses, and make it up by proper directions of Diet, &c. And when I am convinc'd in my own Mind, (as in some Cases) no relief is to be had, I give no Medicines at all, and don't amuse them with false hopes, only to pick their Pockets; and where there are some reasons to hope a few Medicines may be helpful, after I have try'd those Medicines, and find no benefit; neither do I know any other, I have greater reason to believe will succeed; I always tell them so, and decline giving any; and not as some Persons, whom I have known to load their Patients with great Quantities, several Days; nay Weeks and Months, to the last Moment of their Lives, when there has been no possibility of being beneficial, only to themselves; which Practice I look upon to be cruel, and unjust; and that Man who acts with Judgment and Justice, in my humble Opinion, is to be prefer'd to him who has only his own Interest in View, which is chiefly supported by flattery and deceit: Yet in general that Man meets with the most Encouragement and Favour, whose talent excels in pleasing the

the Tempers of his Patients, more than in curing their Distempers; and by my refusing to give Medicines, when I was convinc'd they could be of no use to my Patients, I have greatly suffer'd. If Persons would act according to the Rules I have related, the Question, why they are poor, might be put to many? But by such a Practice, attended with so much cruelty and oppression, with so many unfortunate incidents of Life and a numerous Family, *atque tali Uxore tyrannica*, who can be rich?

Had I been possess'd of a large Fortune of my own, or got one with my Wife, and spent it in Whoring, Gaming &c? Had I been negligent, or extravagant, and thereby reduc'd myself, or had I had a proper time allow'd by those who first shew'd me favours, or had I been assisted with Money, to have paid for those purchases I had upon credit, at great disadvantages, I believe I should have stood my Ground, as well as some others, and escap'd many hardships and difficulties I have suffer'd? Was I to rehearse some particulars with their aggravating Circumstances, which prudence and charity forbid me, who would be surpris'd at my Poverty, and unmov'd at my Distress? But the unprejudic'd Reader, from what I have said, will be convinc'd that the whole of my Life, from my Birth to this Day, has been one continu'd Chain of Afflictions.

How often have I been tantaliz'd with the vain Hopes of Success, and as often by some unforeseen cruel events, have I been disappointed of my Hopes, and suddenly brought into the utmost Distress! and had I not, in the many vicissitudes of Life, been providentially assisted by some good and charitable Persons,

Persons. I could not alternately have suffer'd these various Events of Fortune; and altho', the Friendships I have so frequently met with, have in some degree alleviated my Distresses, they seem'd by their subsequents, as if design'd to put me into a condition only of suffering more.

Thus has a long series of some good, but much the greater Share of bad Fortune, attended all my endeavours, and wore-out the best of my time in Misery and Distress; and after all these sufferings I have undergone, to be now destitute of the common supports and comforts of Life, and not only so distress'd, but daily reproach'd and insulted by those who have not sense enough to be civil, nor compassion enough to be humane!

May these melancholy Considerations, with the many cruel Disappointments of my honest and assiduous Endeavours, move the pity of the Good and Great, and may they be assur'd that all the most pressing distresses of my Life, never could force me to take any dishonest, illegal measures to extricate myself; and I never deceiv'd any of those who first shew'd me favour, but told them the worst of my Circumstances, and I have often refus'd credit, when offer'd me, fearing I should not be able to make a just Satisfaction.

Besides the many Cruelties and Hardships I have met with, I have been often blam'd for faults I never was guilty of; some have reproach'd me with being a bad Husband and Father, with having spent that little I got, and starv'd my Family. But how often, (when I could get nothing by Business or Friends) being sensibly touch'd and most grievously affected with the hungry Cries of my Children, have I stript the Coat off my Back,
and

and sent it to borrow Money upon, to buy them Bread! How many, that have done it for me, can bear witness of what I say! and at the same Time I have been insulted and villified for it, by such as ought most thankfully to have regarded my Compassion to them.

How often have I been aspers'd, for being a Drunkard! I appeal to the Gentlemen, and Neighbours who are daily conversant with me, if ever, Night, or Day, they have sent for me, they have found me in Liquor, or at any other time, have seen me so; and who have often told me, that before they knew me, what a Drunkard I was represented to be, which had hindred many from employing me; and Some have maliciously reported, to hinder my Business, that I was very extravagant in my Bills; when I can prove, I have not had for these five Years past, four Bills exceeding forty Shillings, where I have attended, for Journeys, and gave Medicines, for six Weeks or two Months; nay, I have had very few demands that have exceeded ten Shillings, but most under: A Person whom I lately cur'd of a Pleurisy, who paid me about twelve Shillings for it, said he had no fault to find with me, only that I did too little for Money; that is, I don't prolong a slight cold, and make it a bad Fever, and keep them in pain and misery for a Month, but get them well in three or four Days or a Week, for which they really think I deserve little or nothing.

The other Day, a story was industriously spread about the Country to my prejudice, which I shall relate: One George *Wignall* of *Asbley* in *Northampton-shire*, sent for me to his Wife, who was taken with a fit of the Palsey; I bled her and apply'd

plied five or six Blisters, and gave her warm cordial stimulating Medicines, after some brisk purges; and attended her every Day, continuing to give her such Medicines as I thought proper for a Fortnight, in which time she greatly recovered, and got down Stairs with her Family; I call'd one Day to see her, and as she was a very gross Woman, and this paralytic Disorder proceeded from a strong Scurvy, which afterwards was rheumatic, and finding upon her Recovery, by eating and drinking too freely, she was a little feverish, I thought proper to bleed her, and at the same Time sent her some active, purging Medicines, directly to take after bleeding, to prevent any injury which might arise from revulsing that matter, which might again by fixing, return the complaint. These purges they neglected giving, and her Palsy return'd; the matter offer'd once to collect in her Arm, but did not, she grew worse and in about a fortnight dy'd.

After attending her two or three Days, finding no hopes of her Recovery, I told her Husband she would inevitably die; I should give her no more Medicines, for it was out of the Power of any Man to help her, and it would be only picking his Pocket; and so took my leave.

In this Case, as in many more I suffer'd, for they immediately dispatch'd a Messenger with her Urine, to a noted piss Doctor, who was Conjuror enough to say, she had no Palsy, and he'd soon recover her. I think he sent as many infallibles (with which she dy'd) at once, as came to half my Demand, for bleeding, blisters, medicines and Journeys, for better than a Month; for my whole Demand did not amount to twenty Shillings; and in

order to prejudice me in my Practice, it was maliciously reported by some Persons, that I took five Pounds of the Man, and did his Wife no service, nay, I did not so much as know her illness; many instances of this kind I could produce, but am now drawing to a conclusion.

When wicked malicious Persons intend to prejudice a Man, whose Bread depends upon his Reputation, they either call him Rogue or Fool; the first, I have been often call'd, but never prov'd so; and those, who did not care to prove me a Fool, would have the World think I was a Sot, and unfit to be trusted in my Business; and when that would not do, then I was represented as an extravagant, dear Man, while others would say I had no Medicines.

A certain Neighbour, a Man of excellent parts, and great sagacity, who calls himself Apothecary, Surgeon, Rum and Brandy-Merchant; I don't know whether he sells Cyder, fine Ale, or London Porter, I know he has them all, who has been at the Bottom of all the foul play I have receiv'd in the Country, was the other Day in company with a good sensible Tradesman in *Harborough*, which Tradesman, was speaking to this Haberdasher of small-Wares, in a kind manner about me, who made Answer; yes, *Mason* is an ingenious Man, but he is poor; he has nothing but his Lancet to trust to, he has no Medicines; no Medicines! reply'd my Friend; for God's sake, what does he cure People with? for this I know, he has more success than all the Apothecaries in the Country.

My fate, sure of all Men, is most hard; some have been encouraged for understanding their Business;

finest; but those few Abilities, which some have been pleas'd to allow me, have rais'd a Jealousy among others of the physical Tribe, who have taken all pains to do me hurt: But now I hope it appears, that I am neither Rogue, Fool, Drunkard, nor extravagant; but am very capable of being useful in my Profession, and could I wipe off that hateful odium of Poverty, I shou'd have as few faults as others.

To conclude, my sufferings have been such, as no Man besides myself ever underwent; for there is no Man, but surely, saw some happy Days in thirty Years: Besides, I suffer, and have all along suffer'd, for what others would have got encouragement; I suffer for understanding my Business, and being diligent, and honest, (as I hope this whole Relation will prove.)

Therefore may I, after so many fruitless hopes, indulge one hope more; which is, that this narrative of my Life, and Practice, may fall into the Hands of some good and great, whose charity may incline them to compassionate a Man, who is both able, and willing, to be useful to his fellow Creatures, and make a comfortable provision for himself and Family, and do justice to all the World, and not continue starving in obscurity: Since that good God, who knows what is best for us all, hath blest me with a good Constitution, a great share of health, with lasting Spirits, supported by the Promises in Scripture; *that I shall not be afflicted more than I am able to bear*, but that I shall either be supported under my Afflictions, or delivered out of them: This Confidence hath greatly enabled me to bear up against such troubles and distresses,

as would have broke the Hearts of ten-Thousand.

If I have the least claim to encouragement, from my few abilities in my Profession, or if my pressing Distresses, may move the Compassion of the well dispos'd, whereby I may be enabled to prosecute the Business I profess; or should some Gentleman, who has a numerous Family in a Country distant from Advice, think I should be useful in my own Sphere, and helpful in any other, I would gladly use my utmost endeavours to be of service, and could have undeniable Testimonials and Security, if I was but free'd from a Corner, as is my present fate; then all I have suffer'd wou'd seem as nothing, but if I must still continue in misery and Distress, *as through much tribulation a Man must enter into the Kingdom of Heaven*; Since I have not receiv'd much consolation in this World, may I receive it in that World, where it will not be in the Power of any to take it from me.

As I hope and expect the mercies of a good God, who for wise ends thought fit, perhaps for my correction, and probation, thus to afflict me; I do with unfeigned Sincerity, most heartily thank all, who are, and have been friendly to me; and I do with the same Sincerity, forgive all who have any ways injur'd or distress'd me; and I also ask forgiveness of those, whom I have in any degree injur'd, and hope as I forgive those who have done me any ill, and those to whom I have unknowingly done any, will likewise forgive me. May the great God, who knows the Secrets of all Hearts, pardon and forgive us all, and after
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the conclusion of this miserable Life, receive us into that lasting Kingdom of Bliss, whose uninterrupted Joys will never end.

F I N I S.



VII. LOCAL WOMEN

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- and over the river, beyond

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40 - - add not, before as &c.
84 - - - 1000, for 100.
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